



**FIRST THINGS FIRST**

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

# 2014 NEEDS AND ASSETS REPORT

*Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council*

**CONTRACTOR:**

Applied Survey Research  
55 Brennan Street  
Watsonville, CA 95076  
(831) 728.1356  
[www.appliedsurveyresearch.org](http://www.appliedsurveyresearch.org)



# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBERS

First Things First  
4000 N. Central Ave., Ste. 800  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
<http://www.azftf.gov>

Toby Urvater, Chair

Chris Tompkins, Vice Chair

Jan Flaaten

Jessica Jarvi

Nicole McNeil

Jacqueline Schlosser

Karen Stewart

Ginger Ward

Kimulet Winzer



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CONTENTS

|                                                               |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Letter from the Chair .....</b>                            | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Introduction and Acknowledgments .....</b>                 | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Acknowledgments .....</b>                                  | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>                                | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Demographic Overview .....</b>                             | <b>14</b> |
| About the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.....      | 15        |
| <b>Basic Demographics .....</b>                               | <b>16</b> |
| Population .....                                              | 17        |
| Family Types .....                                            | 18        |
| Race/Ethnic Distribution .....                                | 21        |
| Refugee Population .....                                      | 22        |
| Language Characteristics.....                                 | 24        |
| <b>Economic Circumstances .....</b>                           | <b>26</b> |
| Income.....                                                   | 27        |
| Unemployment .....                                            | 29        |
| Poverty .....                                                 | 31        |
| Economic Supports.....                                        | 33        |
| Food Insecurity.....                                          | 35        |
| Housing Affordability and Foreclosures .....                  | 41        |
| Homelessness.....                                             | 44        |
| <b>The Early Childhood System.....</b>                        | <b>47</b> |
| <b>Early Care and Education.....</b>                          | <b>48</b> |
| Early Child Care and Development.....                         | 49        |
| Child Care Access and Enrollment.....                         | 49        |
| Cost of Child Care .....                                      | 55        |
| Child Care Providers .....                                    | 57        |
| Parent Knowledge of Child Development .....                   | 61        |
| Special Needs .....                                           | 64        |
| Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services ..... | 64        |
| Education.....                                                | 69        |



|                                                      |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| School Enrollment .....                              | 69         |
| School Readiness .....                               | 71         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Test Scores .....              | 73         |
| Graduation Rate .....                                | 76         |
| Educational Attainment .....                         | 77         |
| Family Literacy .....                                | 78         |
| <b>Family Supports .....</b>                         | <b>82</b>  |
| Community Supports .....                             | 83         |
| Family and Community Supports .....                  | 83         |
| Social Services .....                                | 86         |
| Child Abuse .....                                    | 86         |
| Foster Care .....                                    | 87         |
| Juvenile Justice .....                               | 89         |
| Children of Incarcerated Parents .....               | 90         |
| <b>Health .....</b>                                  | <b>92</b>  |
| Maternal and Child Health .....                      | 93         |
| Prenatal Care .....                                  | 93         |
| Birth Characteristics .....                          | 95         |
| Substance Abuse During Pregnancy .....               | 97         |
| Teen Births .....                                    | 99         |
| Immunizations .....                                  | 100        |
| Health Care .....                                    | 103        |
| Health Insurance .....                               | 103        |
| Primary Care .....                                   | 106        |
| Oral Health Care .....                               | 108        |
| Disease and Mortality .....                          | 110        |
| Illness .....                                        | 110        |
| Asthma .....                                         | 111        |
| Obesity and Overweight .....                         | 112        |
| Diabetes .....                                       | 114        |
| Leading Causes of Death .....                        | 115        |
| <b>Public Awareness and Collaboration .....</b>      | <b>117</b> |
| Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services ..... | 118        |
| <b>Conclusion .....</b>                              | <b>121</b> |
| <b>Appendices .....</b>                              | <b>126</b> |
| <b>Appendix A: Methodology .....</b>                 | <b>127</b> |





|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Secondary Data.....</b>                                   | <b>127</b> |
| Regional Population and Poverty Estimates .....              | 127        |
| Census and American Community Survey Data .....              | 127        |
| Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE).....           | 128        |
| Food Insecurity Estimates .....                              | 129        |
| First Things First Family and Community Survey .....         | 130        |
| First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Breakdowns ..... | 130        |
| Secondary Data Analysis .....                                | 131        |



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

July 2014

The past years have been rewarding for the First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, as we delivered on our mission to build better futures for young children and their families. Our strategic direction has been guided by the Needs and Assets reports specifically created for the Central Phoenix Region in 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Through funded programs, partnerships and community outreach, we have positively impacted the lives of many young children and their families.

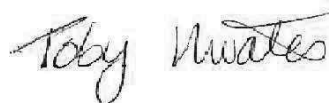
This new **2014 Central Phoenix Needs and Assets Report** is vital to informing the continued work in building a truly integrated early childhood system for young children, and to achieving a strong community which supports and fosters healthy, happy, successful children and families.

The new report will help guide the decisions of the new Phoenix North and Phoenix South Regional Partnership Councils as they continue the mission and legacy established by Central Phoenix Councils to best serve young children with the opportunities granted through First Things First and through strong and intentional community involvement and partnerships.

We hope this report will not only be of use to the First Things First councils, but to the greater community. This report, along with the many other tools, materials, and reports of our Regional Partnership Council and First Things First statewide, can be accessed through [www.azfff.gov](http://www.azfff.gov).

Together with the dedicated volunteers and advocates, business community, faith community and other partners, First Things First is making a real difference in the lives of our youngest citizens in Phoenix and throughout the entire State.

Sincerely,



Toby Urvater, Chair



# INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The way in which children develop from infancy to well-functioning members of society will always be a critical subject matter. Understanding the processes of early childhood development is crucial to our ability to foster each child's optimal development and thus, in turn, is fundamental to all aspects of wellbeing of our communities, society and the State of Arizona.

This 2014 Needs and Assets Report for the Central Phoenix Region provides data, analysis and observations which help us in understanding the areas of need and areas of resource for young children. The report will serve as a resource as we continue to work to identify and address areas in which children and families can be supported. The needs of young children and families are outlined in the executive summary and documented in further detail in the full report.

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council recognizes the importance of investing in young children and empowering parents, grandparents, and caregivers to advocate for services and programs within the region. This report provides basic data points that will aid the future decisions and funding allocations; all in effort to build a truly comprehensive statewide early childhood system.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council owes special gratitude to the agencies and key stakeholders, who have worked with us to plan, collaborate and deliver high quality services over the past six years. The success of First Things First is due, in large measure, to the contributions of the hundreds of individuals who gave their time, skill, support, expertise and advocacy to FTF, the community and the children.

To all of the members of the Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council, for service during 2008- 2014, your dedication, commitment and extreme passion has guided the work and has made a difference in the lives of young children and families within this region.

Thank you for your service.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## THE CITY OF PHOENIX AND OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN

The city of Phoenix is the sixth most populous city in the United States and is home to nearly 1.5 million people. The First Things First Board established three regions in the city of Phoenix: North, Central and South. This executive summary contains information about the city as a whole, and comparisons between the three First Things First Regions of Phoenix.

Based on 2010 census data, there were over 131,000 children from birth through 5 in the three combined First Things First Regions of Phoenix, with the largest number in the South Phoenix Region (52,303), followed by North Phoenix (45,008) and Central Phoenix (34,047).

### Demographics

---

#### Types of Families

When looking at the types of families with children birth through 5, there were 52,627 married-couple families in Phoenix, 19,489 single female-headed families, and 9,776 single male-headed families in 2010.

- There was a higher percentage of married-couple families with children birth through 5 in the North Phoenix Region (67%), followed by the South (61%) and Central Phoenix Regions (58%) in 2010.

#### The Race and Ethnicity of Children

The children of Phoenix are culturally and ethnically diverse. When looking across the entire city, over half of children ages birth through 5 were identified as Hispanic or Latino (58%), followed by White (28%), African American (6%), Asian (3%), and American Indian (2%).

- The South Phoenix Region had the highest percentage children birth through 5 who identified as Hispanic or Latino (78%), followed by Central Phoenix Region (68%) and North Phoenix Region (35%).
- The North Phoenix Region had the highest percentage of children birth through 5 who identified as White (51%), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (18%) and South Phoenix Region (9%).
- The South Phoenix Region had the highest percentage of children birth through 5 who identified as African American (8%); the North Phoenix Region the highest percentage Asian (4%); and the Central Phoenix Region the highest percentage American Indian (3%).



## The Top Languages in the City

The U.S. Census does not collect data about what languages are spoken by children under 5 years old, but when looking at children and adults five years and older, the majority of people in the city of Phoenix spoke either English (63%) or Spanish (31%), and the next top three languages were Arabic, African Languages, and Navajo.

- The region with the highest percentage of Spanish speakers was the First Things First South Phoenix Region (55%), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (37%), and the North Phoenix Region (15%).

## The Economy

---

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate measures the number of people who do not have jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks.

- There is good news in the area of unemployment in Phoenix City; it dropped from 11.2% in 2010 to 7.0% in 2013.

### Income

One way to look at local incomes is to look at median family incomes, meaning half of families earned more than the median and half earned less. However, when looking at median incomes in the City of Phoenix, there was wide variation depending on the composition of the family.

Married-couple families with children reported incomes of \$70,670 per year, while female single-headed families reported \$30,282 and male single-headed families \$41,999.

- Married-couple families were the most common type of family in the city, but their median incomes varied widely across the three regions depending on what school district area they lived in. Incomes ranged from a low of \$32,591 (Alhambra Elementary District Area in the Central Phoenix Region) to a high of \$98,640 per year (Paradise Valley Unified School District Area in North Phoenix Region).
- Single female-headed families were the next most common type of family with a range of incomes from \$9,795 (Phoenix Elementary School District Area in the Central Phoenix Region) to \$44,338 (Deer Valley Unified School District Area in the North Phoenix Region).

### Poverty

Children who grow up in poverty are more likely to lack adequate food and basic health care; they are also at higher risk for experiencing crime and violence. They are at significant risk for



dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment.<sup>1</sup> Arizona had the fifth highest child poverty rate in the nation in 2010, with 1 out of 4 children living in poverty.

- Child poverty varied widely across the three regions with almost half (48%) of children birth through 5 in the Central Phoenix Region lived in families in poverty, followed by 35% in the South Phoenix Region and 19% in the North Phoenix Region.

## Food

When children lack of adequate food, they can experience poor physical and mental health, difficulty learning, increased school absences, and lower test scores. Households are classified as food insecure if one or more household members went hungry at least once during the year because the household could not afford enough food to eat.<sup>2</sup>

- One in 4 children (25%) under the age of 18 lived in food insecure households in Maricopa County in 2011.

## Early Care and Education

---

### The Early Childhood System

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.<sup>3</sup> Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, provides critical support for working families.

- The Central Phoenix Region had the capacity to serve the greatest percentage of children with parents in the work force through licensed care facilities. It is estimated that 52% of the Central Phoenix Region children ages 0-11 with parents in the labor force have access to licensed care, followed by 40% in the North Phoenix Region and 19% in the South Phoenix Region.

---

<sup>1</sup> Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.

<sup>2</sup> Feeding America. (2013). Map the Gap. Retrieved from [www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap).

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2010). *Link between child care and academic achievement and behavior persists into adolescence*. Retrieved from <http://www.nichd.nih.gov>



- The median daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from \$20.00 to \$42.50, depending on the age of the child and whether it was in-home based care or in a child care center in 2012.

## Family Literacy and School Success

When families read to their infants and preschool children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.<sup>4</sup> The First Things First Family and Community Survey assess family literacy and school readiness activities by interviewing parents and caregivers regarding the frequency of these activities in their home. Another way to assess children's long term school success is to look at third grade reading scores. Third grade reading scores are known to be correlated with high school graduation rates. The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

- Family and Community Survey respondents in the North Phoenix, Central Phoenix, and South Phoenix regions all reported engaging their child in literacy related activities less often than parents in the state as a whole in 2012. Less than half of parent respondents in each of the three regions reported that they read stories to their child/children 6 to 7 times in the past week.
- The North Phoenix Region had the highest reading scores: 65% to 87% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade children in all of the school districts were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading, followed by the Central Phoenix Region (58% to 85%, depending on the school district), and the South Phoenix Region (54% to 73%) in 2013.

## Children with Special Needs

It is crucial to have early identification of children's special needs so that children can get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.<sup>5</sup> Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive, and audio screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth. Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) is an interagency system of supports and services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. In addition to AzEIP, children who have developmental disabilities such as epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disabilities, and autism are eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).

---

<sup>4</sup> Levy, B. A., Gong, Z., Hessels, S., Evans, M. A., & Jared, D. (2006). Understanding print: Early reading development and the contributions of home literacy experiences. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 93(1), 63-93.

<sup>5</sup> Steele, M.M. (2004). Making the case for early intervention for young children at risk for learning disabilities. *Early childhood Education Journal*. 32(2), 75-79.



- Roughly 1% of children birth through 5 in each of the Phoenix Regions were receiving AzEIP services in 2009/10. The greatest number of children were served in the North Phoenix Region (509), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (420) and the South Phoenix Region (241).
- There were more children birth through 5 in the North Phoenix Region receiving DDD services (524), followed by the South Phoenix Region (496) and the Central Phoenix Region (384) in 2012.

## Access to Health Care and Health Insurance

Children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.<sup>6</sup> Children who don't have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.<sup>7</sup>

- Approximately 13% of children in Maricopa County went without medical insurance in 2012, similar to 2011. Regional break-downs were not available.

## Healthy Births

Women who receive adequate prenatal care are more likely to have better birth outcomes. Babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at a low birth weight (less than 5.5 pounds), and five times more likely to die.<sup>8</sup>

- 81% to 86% of women in the three regions began prenatal care during their first trimester in 2012; however the percentages were lower in the Central Phoenix Region (81%), compared to the South Phoenix Region (83%) and the North Phoenix Region (86%).

## Immunizations

Immunizations help to prevent a number of serious and sometimes fatal diseases in young children such hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox).<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup> Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4*. Retrieved from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHImproves.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). *MediKids fact sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) A Healthy start: Begin before baby's born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>





- The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.<sup>10</sup> Based on data available, the First Things First South Phoenix Region had the largest percentage of children ages 19 through 35 months who had completed their vaccination schedule at 53%, followed by the Central Phoenix Region (40%), and the North Phoenix Region (39%) in 2012.

## Child Safety

In situations of abuse and neglect, children may be removed from parents' home by a child welfare agency and placed in foster care. Children may also enter the child welfare system due to parental abandonment, illness (physical or emotional), incarceration, AIDS, alcohol/substance abuse, and death. Severe behavioral problems in the child including chronic absenteeism may also result in foster care placement.<sup>11</sup>

- The South Phoenix Region had the greatest number of children birth through 5 living in foster care (653), followed by the Central Phoenix Region (477), and the North Phoenix Region (412) in 2012. This represented roughly 1% of children in each of the three regions.

## Knowledge of Child Development

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.<sup>12</sup>

- The majority of parents and caregivers who participated in the Family and Community Survey in 2012 (73%-84%) in the First Things First Phoenix Regions understood that a child's first year has a major impact on school performance. Fewer parents (68%-78%) believed that a parent's emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence their child's intellectual development. Yet, 26%-35% of parents in the First Things First Phoenix Regions understood that a parent can significantly impact a child's brain development prior to birth.

---

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.) Five Important Reasons to Vaccinate your Child. Retrieved from <http://www.vaccines.gov/>

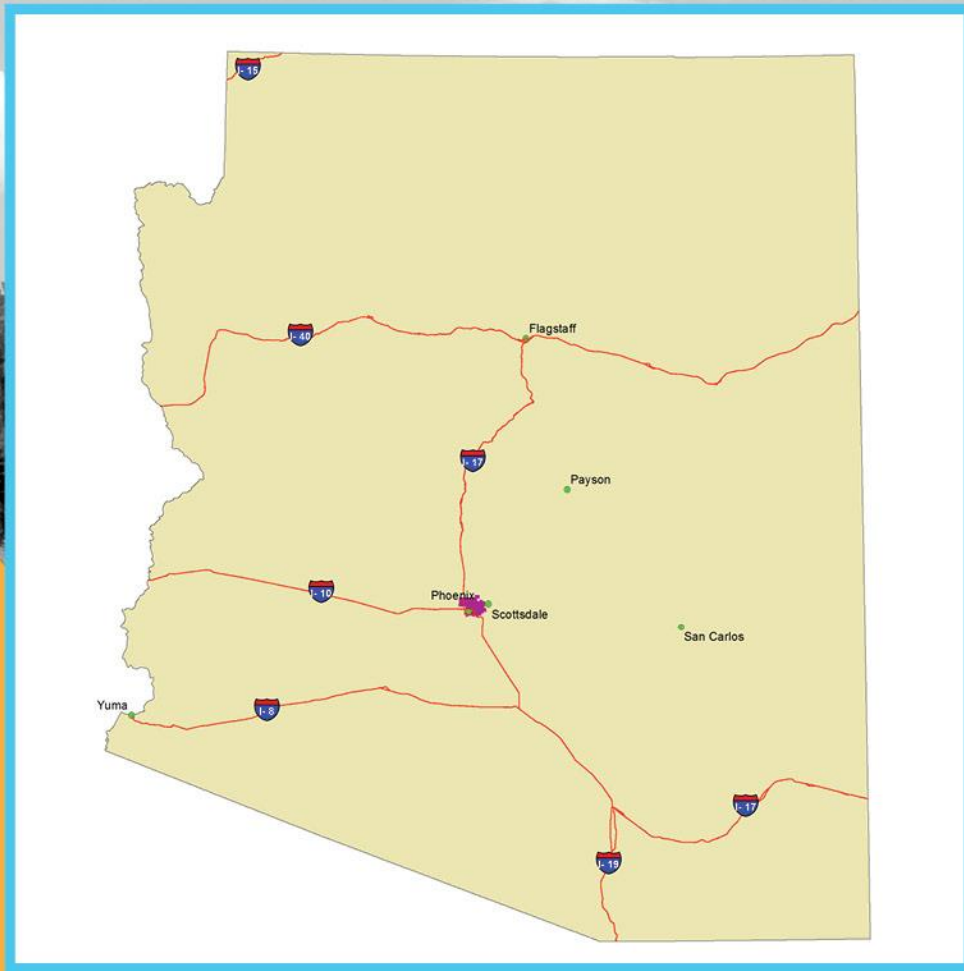
<sup>10</sup> Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.

<sup>11</sup> American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology. (2014). Foster Care. Retrieved July 2014 from <http://www.aacap.org/>

<sup>12</sup> The Child Development Institute. (n.d.). Home Page. *In Child Development Institute*. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>



# DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW: WHO ARE THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LIVING IN THE CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION?



## About the First Things First Central Phoenix Region

---

The City of Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, covers more than 517 square miles and has a population of nearly 1.5 million, ranking it the sixth largest city in the country and the largest capital city in terms of population. The First Things First Board established three regions in the City of Phoenix: North, Central, and South. The Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council boundary reaches as far North as Glendale Avenue. In the West, it extends to 43rd Avenue. The East boundary of the region reaches to the eastern edge of the City of Phoenix near 64th Street. The South side of the region spans all the way to Broadway Road. The Central Phoenix Region includes neighborhoods as diverse as Arcadia, the North Central Corridor, the State Capitol, and the East Van Buren Street Corridor. The Central Phoenix Region includes the following ZIP codes: 85003, 85004, 85006, 85007, 85008, 85012, 85013, 85014, 85015, 85016, 85017, 85018, 85019, and 85034.

Many prominent attractions exist within the Central Phoenix Region, including the State Capitol, Arizona Science Center, the Phoenix Zoo, the Phoenix Children's Museum, Burton Barr Library, and Chase Field.

The Central Phoenix Region includes several large medical facilities, including St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, Phoenix Children's Hospital, Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, and Mountain Park Health Center. Many organizations and private businesses are headquartered in Phoenix. State and local government are the dominant employers in the region. This is an area that has abundant retail services, and the sales and retail industries are a leading sector in the region.

Seven public elementary school districts fall into the Central Phoenix Region. They include Alhambra School District, Balsz School District, Creighton School District, Madison School District, Osborn School District, Phoenix Elementary School District, and the Wilson School District. In addition, over 30 charter schools fall within the Central Phoenix Region



# BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics describe the regions' population including gender, age, ethnicity, and language. These factors are important to help First Things First provide services that fit local needs.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

- Population
- Family Types
- Race/Ethnic Distribution
- Refugee Population
- Language Characteristics



## Population

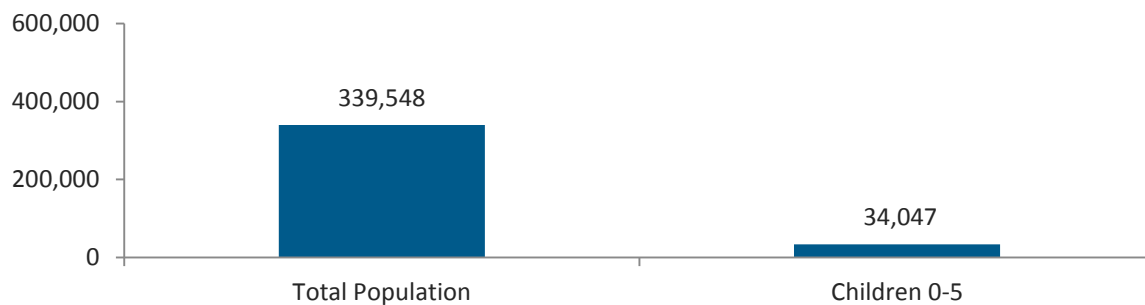
### Why It Is Important

Population changes are based on three key factors: births, deaths, and migration. It is important to track these changes so that public policymakers can place resources where they are most needed. For example, if there is a big increase in the birth rate, it will be necessary to have more resources allocated to serving infants and toddlers including pediatric health care, child care, and K-12 education. The U.S. Census is the primary source for demographic data, however, while these data provide a general understanding of the region, it is important to recognize their limitations as they are self-reported and rely heavily on the Bureau's ability to reach and build trust with local community members.

### What the Data Tell Us

An estimated 34,047 children under the age of six years old live in the Central Phoenix Region. Children birth through 5 were 10% of the overall population.

#### Total Population Estimates, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: First Things First. (2014). Population Estimates.

Note: Data based on U.S. Census 2010 calculated by census tract, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.



## Family Types

### Why It Is Important

Family structure is an important factor in the health and development of young children. Household structures and family environments have been correlated with children's educational achievement and physical wellbeing.<sup>13</sup> A study by McLanahan and Percheski suggests that the links between family structure, income inequality and ethnicity are not only compounded by one another but increase generationally. Income inequality may lead to increases in single motherhood; single motherhood decreases children's economic mobility, and these in turn are exacerbated by already existing racial inequalities.<sup>14</sup>

The effects of single parent households on the health and wellbeing of children have been long recognized. However, continued economic challenges have added pressure to families across the country, creating new alternative family structures, including multigenerational households and households in which grandparents are raising children. These grandfamilies require unique programs and services targeted at bridging the generation gap.<sup>15</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)** supports individuals applying for child support services in Arizona regardless of income, residency, nationality, or gender. The department helps to establish paternity; establish child support payments for the parent whose children live in the home; modify child support payments; enforce child support and locate absent parents. DES recognizes and provides services to grandparents raising grandchildren and other custodians.

---

<sup>13</sup> Fields, J. & Smith, K. (1998). Poverty, family structure, and child well-being: Indicators from the SIPP. *U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Working Paper 23*. Washington DC: U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0023/twps0023.html>.

<sup>14</sup> McLanahan, S. & Percheski, C. (2008). Family structure and the reproduction of inequalities. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 34, 257-276.

<sup>15</sup> Edwards, Oliver W.; Taub, Gordon E. (Sep 2009). A conceptual pathways model to promote positive youth development in children raised by their grandparents. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 24(3), 160-172. doi: 10.1037/a0016226

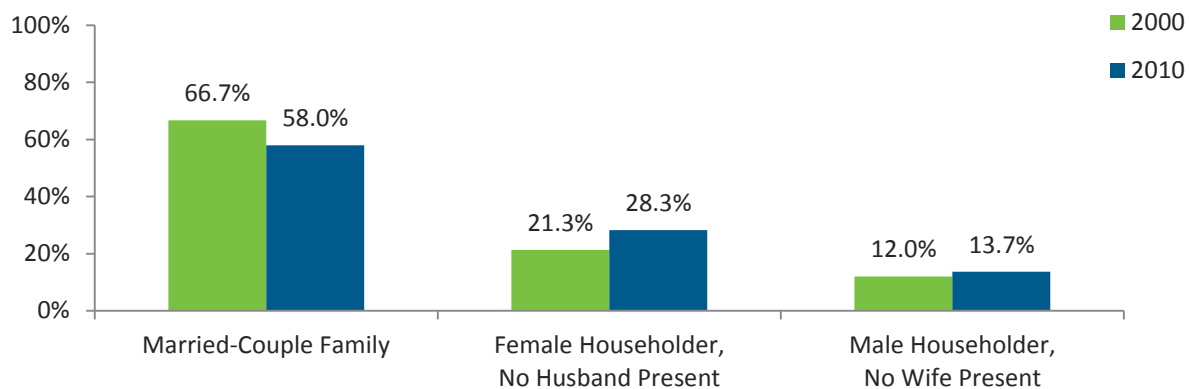


- ***The Duet Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program*** is a county-wide program with an office in Phoenix offering information, referrals, support groups, workshops, legal guidance, and financial assistance for children to attend extracurricular programs, summer programs, and group activities, to grandparents raising grandchildren.
- ***Arizona Children's Association*** offers many resources to families depending on desired need. Services range from, but are not limited to, family preservation services, behavioral health services, foster care services, parenting education, and transitional living services.
- ***Southwest Human Development*** offers comprehensive assessment services, treatment, and coordination with other services for families in crisis. These services are offered for families with children living in Phoenix that are experiencing complex problems.
- ***Valle Del Sol*** offers parenting classes and family support services that enhance parenting skills and improve family functioning. Valle Del Sol also offers a Parent Aide Program that serves the parents and caregivers of children involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) in an effort to eliminate future need of CPS involvement.

## What the Data Tell Us

The percentage of single parent families increased slightly between 2000 and 2010 in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region; the percentage of single female-headed households (no husband present) rose from 21% to 28%, while single male-headed households increased from 12% in 2000 to 14% in 2010.

## Types of Families with Children Birth Through 5, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2000). Table P015- Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table P38: Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from <http://www.factfinder.gov/>.

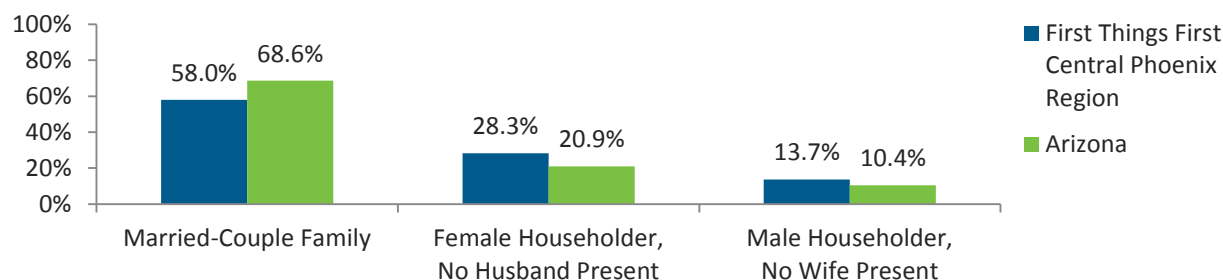
Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

The percentage of single parent families in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region was higher than the state average. In 2010, 21% of families with children birth through 5 in Arizona were living in single female-headed households as compared to 28% in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region. Ten percent of families with children birth through 5 in Arizona were living in single male-headed households compared to 14% in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.





### Types of Families with Children Birth Through 5, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Table P38- Family type by presence of own child under the age of 18. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

Data on grandparent households are limited. The American Community Survey asks respondents if they are a grandparent with children under 18 in their home but there are no questions regarding the number of total grandparent-led households. Therefore, the data presented below are the percentage of children living in grandparent-led households not the percentage of grandparent-led households. There were an estimated 3,112 children under the age of 18 living in grandparent-led households in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region (3% of children under age 18). The majority (71%) of those children, were living in a household where the child's parent(s) were also present.

### Children Under 18 Years Old Living with Grandparents, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

| HOUSEHOLD TYPE             | FIRST THINGS FIRST<br>CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION |                              | ARIZONA                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                            | Number of Children                           | Percent of Children under 18 | Percent of Children under 18 |
| Grandparent-led households | 3,112                                        | 3.4%                         | 4.5%                         |
| Parental Presence          |                                              |                              |                              |
| Parent Present             | 2,213                                        | 2.4%                         | 3.3%                         |
| No Parent Present          | 899                                          | 1.0%                         | 1.2%                         |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B10002- Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent by Grandparents Responsibility and Presence of Parent. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved 2014 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population under 18 by Age. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved 2014 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Caution should be used when interpreting these numbers due to small population sample.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.





## Race/Ethnic Distribution

### Why It Is Important

Arizona is a very ethnically diverse state with large percentages of Whites, Latinos, and American Indians. Understanding racial and ethnic diversity within the region allows First Things First to provide culturally appropriate services to families of different backgrounds.

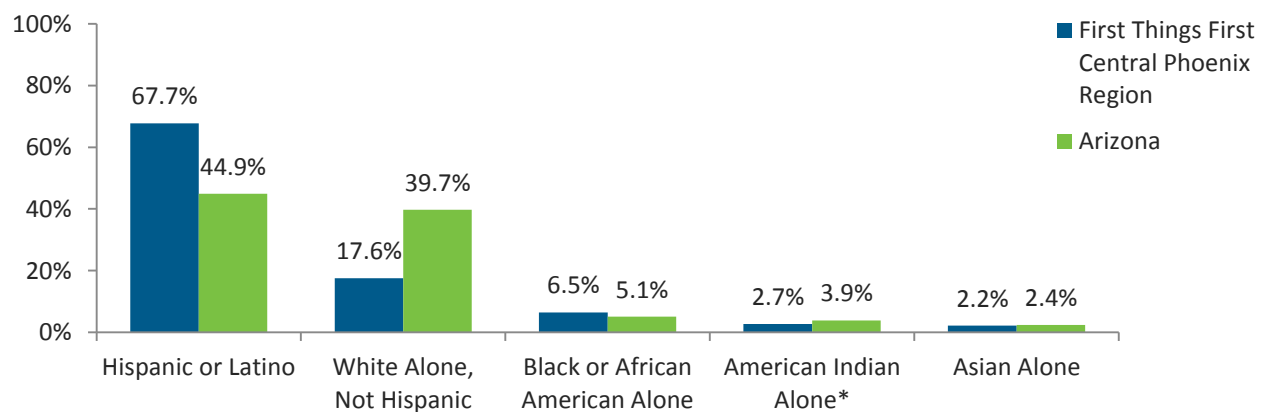
**"THERE IS A SMALL AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION IN ARIZONA,** so there are fewer resources dedicated to them, even though they may need the support. African American families experience health disparities and disparities in employment. But it's hard to find funding sources for African American families."

- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation

### What the Data Tell Us

In the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, more than half (68%) of children birth through 5 were identified as Hispanic or Latino, followed by 18% White, 7% Black or African American, 3% American Indian, and 2% Asian. The First Things First Central Phoenix Region had a higher percentage of Hispanic or Latino children and a lower percentage of White children as compared to the state overall. In the state of Arizona, 40% of children were identified as White, 45% Hispanic or Latino, and 4% American Indian.

### Race/Ethnicity of Children Birth Through 5, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2010). Summary File 1, Table PCT12H-L. Retrieved 2012 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: The U.S. Census considers race and Hispanic ethnicity to be two separate and distinct concepts. Respondents are asked whether or not they are of Hispanic origin in addition to their racial classification. In order to conform to common reporting standards data are shown for those who identified as Hispanic or Latino, and those who did not identify as Hispanic or Latino by race. Percent may not equal 100% due to rounding and additional race categories including multi-ethnic and other.

\*The U.S. Census combines American Indian and Alaska Native. The term Alaska Native has been omitted from our report for relevance.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.



## Refugee Population

### Why It Is Important

Refugee populations are often faced with many challenges settling in a new country. For the many refugees going from rural undeveloped countries to life in urban centers, integrating into new education and health care systems and the work force can be difficult, as they may face language barriers both when seeking and receiving services. However, there are also many benefits to resettlement for both those with refugee status and the community receiving refugee populations. Distinct cultural centers provide diversity of thoughts, opinions, language, and culture to the communities in which they settle.

A refugee is defined as:

*“any person who is outside any country of such person’s nationality or, in the case of a person having no nationality, is outside any country in which such person last habitually resided, and who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership with a particular social group, or political opinion.”<sup>16</sup>*

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The International Rescue Committee*** in Phoenix provides a wide variety of services to refugees, including assistance with initial needs such as housing, food, clothing, employment and small business assistance, English language classes, and ongoing culturally appropriate food security support.
- ***Catholic Charities Community Services*** provides support from the moment individuals arrive at the airport, teaching them about their new community and preparing homes with furnishings.
- ***Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest Refugee and Immigration Services Division*** provides comprehensive resettlement and adjustment services including employment support, and legal assistance that can help with immigration, citizenship, residency, and reunification petitions.
- ***Maricopa County Department of Public Health*** provides scheduled health screenings and medical services to refugees in Maricopa County.

---

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1980). *RRP Refugee Act*. Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov>



- **Area Agency on Aging** provides services specific to elderly refugee populations, providing outreach, case management and referral services as well as English language classes, translation, housing management and assistance, counseling, and transportation services.
- **Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program** offers resettlement services and cash and medical assistance for eligible beneficiaries. Services are only available for refugees and include, but are not limited to, preventative health services, behavioral health services, cash assistance, and medical assistance.
- **Iraqi American Society for Peace and Friendship** offers programs and services designed to assist new immigrants in the Phoenix metro area in becoming more self-sufficient. Services include, but are not limited to, education, advocacy, empowerment programs, job referrals, translation services, and medical care assistance.

### What the Data Tell Us

Maricopa County received close to 3,000 refugees in 2013. Refugees arrived from all over North Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. In 2013, Maricopa County reported more than 1,000 refugees from Iraq, the most common country of origin.

### Refugee Arrivals, Maricopa County, Top Ten Countries of Origin

| COUNTRY OF ORIGIN                | 2013         |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Iraq                             | 1,062        |
| Cuba                             | 374          |
| Somalia                          | 342          |
| Myanmar                          | 242          |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 147          |
| Burma                            | 113          |
| Iran                             | 106          |
| Bhutan                           | 93           |
| Eritrea                          | 61           |
| Afghanistan                      | 53           |
| <b>Total Arrivals</b>            | <b>2,840</b> |

Source: Arizona Refugee Resettlement Program Representative (personal communication, February 26, 2014).



## Language Characteristics

### Why It Is Important

In Arizona, English is the most commonly spoken language, followed by Spanish and Native American languages such as Navajo and Apache.<sup>17</sup> According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a "limited English speaking household" is one in which no member 14 years old and over speaks only English or speaks English less than "very well" in addition to another non-English language. In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. All the members of a limited English speaking household are classified as limited English speaking; however these households may include members under 14 years old who speak English well. While the ability to speak two languages has benefits, if no one in the household speaks English well, the family is likely to encounter difficulties accessing health and other social services, finding higher wage employment, and talking with children's teachers.<sup>18</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Phoenix College** offers English as a second language classes for a small fee.
- **International Rescue Committee** provides services to immigrants including translation services and language classes.
- **Arizona Department of Education** offers English language classes for adults as well as GED preparation classes, testing, and transcripts.
- **Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS)** offers a Spanish Bilingual Assistant class that trains bilingual Spanish speaking staff to serve as health care interpreters. Students participate in clinical practice and written and listening comprehension exercises.
- **The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County (LVMC)** offers free self-paced English Language learning online and at their LEARN Reed Center in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

### What the Data Tell Us

Slightly more than half the population reported speaking English in the home (57%) in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region. Of those who reported speaking a language other than English, most spoke Spanish. Other languages included Vietnamese, Navajo, French, German, Hindi, and Greek.

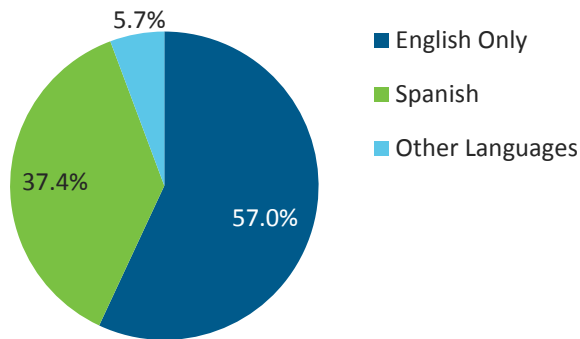
---

<sup>17</sup> The Center for Public Education. (2000). *Top five languages by state*. Retrieved from <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org>

<sup>18</sup> Behrman, R.E. & Shields, M.K. (2004). Children of immigrant families: Analysis and recommendation. *Children of Immigrant Families Journal*, 14(2).



## Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 and Over, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



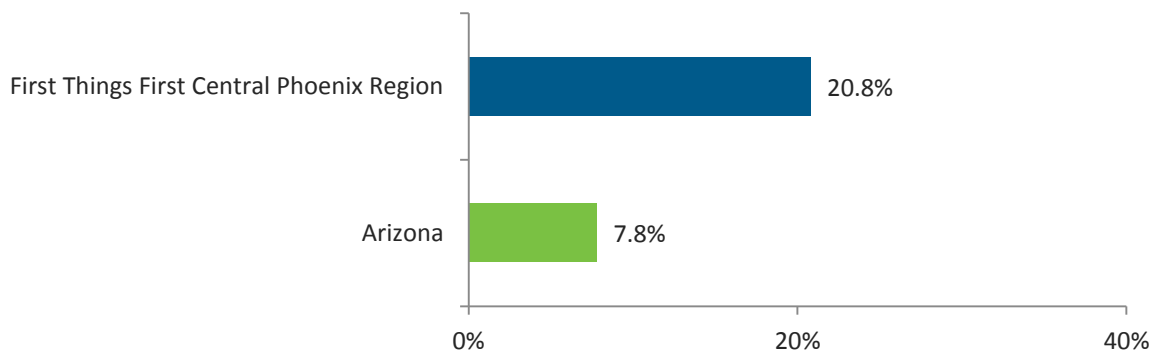
N=311,157

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B16001 - Language spoken in the home for ages 5 and over, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census data see Appendix A.

According to 2007-2011 American Community Survey estimates, one-fifth (21%) of children ages 5 through 17 lived in limited English speaking households. This was higher than the state of Arizona at nearly 8%.

## Children Ages 5-17 in Limited English Speaking Households, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B16003 - Children living in households in which no one 14 and over speaks English or speaks English less than very well, 2007-2011 5-Year estimates. *American Community Survey* Retrieved from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). B01001 - Sex by age, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://www.factfinder2.census.gov/>

Note: Values are the number of children ages 5 through 17 households divided by the total number of children ages 5 through 17.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.



# ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

It is important to consider the current national economic climate when assessing the needs and assets of local regions. While the economy has improved, the nation still faces economic challenges that greatly impact families and their children.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

- Income
- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Economic Supports
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Affordability and Foreclosures
- Homelessness



## Income

### Why It Is Important

Income levels are important for understanding the vitality of a community and the wellbeing of its residents. The income of families is related to the health, wellbeing, educational attainment, and future economic success of children.

### What the Data Tell Us

Large income disparities exist across regional divisions within the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, as well as by marital status, gender, and type of household. The median income for a married couple family in the Madison Elementary District area was \$97,689 compared to \$26,815 for a single female householder in the same area. The median income for a single female householder in the Phoenix Elementary District area was \$9,795.

#### Median Family Income<sup>1</sup> of Families with Own Children Under 18 Years, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

| SCHOOL DISTRICT AREA               | MARRIED COUPLE FAMILY | FEMALE HOUSEHOLDER, NO HUSBAND PRESENT |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Alhambra Elementary District       | \$34,835              | \$16,361                               |
| Balsz Elementary District          | \$38,400              | \$17,520                               |
| Creighton Elementary District      | \$32,591              | \$19,087                               |
| Madison Elementary District        | \$97,689              | \$26,815                               |
| Phoenix Elementary School District | \$48,545              | \$9,795                                |
| <b>Maricopa County</b>             | <b>\$79,307</b>       | <b>\$29,182</b>                        |
| <b>Arizona</b>                     | <b>\$73,631</b>       | <b>\$26,491</b>                        |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B19126 - Median family income in the past 12 months (in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars) by family type by presence of own children under 18 years, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Median household income means that half of households earn more and half earn less.

Note: Osborn Elementary and Wilson Elementary Districts were not presented due to a high margin of error.

Note: Male Householder data were not presented due to a high margin of error.

Note: Data are based on school district area, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.



### Income Levels of Families with Own Children Under 18 Years, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

| INCOME                  | MARRIED<br>COUPLE<br>FAMILY | FEMALE<br>HOUSEHOLDER,<br>NO HUSBAND<br>PRESENT | MALE<br>HOUSEHOLDER,<br>NO WIFE<br>PRESENT |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Less than \$15,000      | 10.2%                       | 32.9%                                           | 40.0%                                      |
| \$15,000 - \$29,999     | 21.8%                       | 33.2%                                           | 22.1%                                      |
| \$30,000 - \$44,999     | 18.1%                       | 13.7%                                           | 13.6%                                      |
| \$45,000 - \$59,999     | 13.0%                       | 11.5%                                           | 8.4%                                       |
| \$60,000 - \$99,999     | 18.9%                       | 6.0%                                            | 11.4%                                      |
| \$100,000 or more       | 17.9%                       | 2.8%                                            | 4.5%                                       |
| <b>Total Households</b> | <b>20,092</b>               | <b>8,106</b>                                    | <b>4,073</b>                               |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B19131 - Family type by presence of own children under 18 years by family income in the past 12 months (in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars) by family type by presence of own children under 18 years, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is used as an indicator of how much income is needed for a family to meet its minimal basic needs without the need for public or private assistance. The Self-Sufficiency Standard is dependent on geographic location, family structure, and the age of the children. In 2012, the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Maricopa County was \$51,115 annually for a single parent with two children and \$58,798 for a family with two parents, a preschooler and school age child.





## Self-Sufficiency Income Standards, Maricopa County, 2012

| MONTHLY EXPENSE              | FAMILY TYPE            |                                        |                                       |                                           |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                              | Adult +<br>Preschooler | Adult +<br>Preschooler +<br>School-age | 2 Adults +<br>Infant +<br>Preschooler | 2 Adults +<br>Preschooler +<br>School-age |
| Housing                      | \$871                  | \$871                                  | \$871                                 | \$871                                     |
| Child Care                   | \$861                  | \$1,319                                | \$1,419                               | \$1,319                                   |
| Food                         | \$388                  | \$582                                  | \$731                                 | \$799                                     |
| Transportation               | \$295                  | \$295                                  | \$561                                 | \$561                                     |
| Health Care                  | \$394                  | \$417                                  | \$464                                 | \$472                                     |
| Miscellaneous                | \$281                  | \$348                                  | \$405                                 | \$402                                     |
| Taxes                        | \$563                  | \$695                                  | \$748                                 | \$742                                     |
| Earned Income Tax Credit (-) | \$0                    | \$0                                    | \$0                                   | \$0                                       |
| Child Care Tax Credit (-)    | -\$53                  | -\$100                                 | -\$100                                | -\$100                                    |
| Child Tax Credit (-)         | -\$83                  | -\$167                                 | -\$167                                | -\$167                                    |
| <b>Self-Sufficiency Wage</b> |                        |                                        |                                       |                                           |
| Hourly                       | \$19.99                | \$24.20                                | \$14.01 per adult                     | \$13.92 per adult                         |
| Monthly                      | \$3,518                | \$4,260                                | \$4,931                               | \$4,900                                   |
| Annual                       | \$42,214               | \$51,115                               | \$59,178                              | \$58,798                                  |

Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2012). Self-sufficiency standard for Arizona. Retrieved from <http://www.selfsufficiencystandard.org>.

## Unemployment

### Why It Is Important

Healthy communities require an adequate supply of jobs that generate enough income to pay for basic needs. The unemployment rate, as defined by the International Labour Organization measures the number of people who are without jobs and who have actively sought work within the past four weeks.<sup>19</sup> The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force (defined as those who are currently working and those who are jobless, looking for jobs, and available for work). Since the economic recession began, much attention has been paid to the unemployment rate and its inability to capture data on individuals that are underemployed or have stopped searching for work. However, it remains the primary indicator of a community's economy. Job growth is an

<sup>19</sup> International Labour Organization. (1982). *Resolution concerning statistics of the economically active population, employment, unemployment and underemployment adopted by the Thirteen International Conference of Labour Statistics*. Thirteenth International Conference on Labour Statistics.



additional indicator of economic wellbeing and Arizona has one of the highest projected growth rates in the U.S. with an expected 59,000 non-farm related jobs in 2014.<sup>20</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The Arizona Workforce Connection** offers employment opportunities, career advising, job readiness workshops, transportation allowances, and daycare assistance (for eligible participants) to job seekers.
- **The Arizona DES Employment Services Program** matches employers with qualified applicants. The Central Phoenix Office is located just outside the region.
- **Chicanos Por La Causa** provides adult education classes, GED classes, job readiness classes, job skills training, and job placement services to residents of Maricopa County.
- **Friendly House** connects business and job seekers by hosting job fairs, assisting businesses with small/medium scale recruitment, providing space for job interviews, and matching candidates to available jobs. The organization also provides direct services to job seekers, including job-related workshops and assessments, career guidance, and onsite computers.

### What the Data Tell Us

The unemployment rate in Phoenix City was 7% in 2013, showing a steady decrease from the 11% seen in 2010. The trend was similar to Maricopa County and the state, which also saw decreases between 2010 and 2013.

### Unemployment Rate

| PLACE           | 2007 | 2008 | 2009  | 2010  | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|-----------------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Phoenix City    | 3.8% | 6.1% | 10.4% | 11.2% | 9.0% | 7.7% | 7.0% |
| Maricopa County | 3.2% | 5.1% | 9.1%  | 9.6%  | 8.5% | 7.2% | 6.7% |
| Arizona         | 3.8% | 5.9% | 9.7%  | 10.4% | 9.4% | 8.3% | 7.9% |

Source: Department of Commerce Research Administration. (2014). Special unemployment report. *Arizona Workforce Informer*. Retrieved from <http://www.workforce.az.gov>.

Note: Data for Maricopa County do not include reservation areas.

<sup>20</sup>Office of Employment and Population Statistics. (2014). *Gradual nonfarm employment growth*. Arizona Department of Administration. Retrieved from <http://azstats.gov>



## Poverty

### Why It Is Important

Living in poverty puts children at risk for a wide variety of challenges with both immediate and lasting effects. Children who grow up in poverty are less likely to have adequate food and basic health care and are more likely to become victims of crime and violence. They are at significant risk for dropping out of school early, poor academic performance, behavior problems in school, lower levels of literacy, and lower educational attainment.<sup>21</sup>

### What the Data Tell Us

Developed in the early 1960's, the Federal Poverty Thresholds (more commonly known as Federal Poverty Levels) were based on three times the cost of a nutritionally adequate food plan, as determined by the Department of Agriculture. This figure presupposes that the average family spends one-third of their income on food. Annual adjustments for inflation occur, based on changes in the Consumer Price Index, but the Federal Poverty Thresholds do not consider other factors besides food, such as child care, and housing costs.

Federal poverty guidelines are used by federal and state governments to determine eligibility for government assistance. There are several programs that use these guidelines or percentages of the guidelines (such as 125% or 185% of the federal poverty guidelines), such as Head Start, food stamps, school lunch programs, low-income energy assistance, children's health insurance programs, and Medicare. In 2014, the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a family of four was \$23,850.

#### **"IT IS EASIER TO THINK ABOUT ONE DAY OF THE YEAR**

(40% of donations and food for the year come in around Thanksgiving and Christmas) rather than tackling the reasons people need food in the first place.

It is important that we do whatever we can do to take on the issue of poverty and define what it takes to help people move from the point of crisis to self-sufficiency."

- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank

---

<sup>21</sup> Winsler, A., Tran, H., Hartman, S. C., Madigan, A. L., Manfra, L., & Bleiker, C. (2008). School readiness gains made by ethnically diverse children in poverty attending center-based childcare and public school pre-kindergarten programs. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 23(3), 314-329.



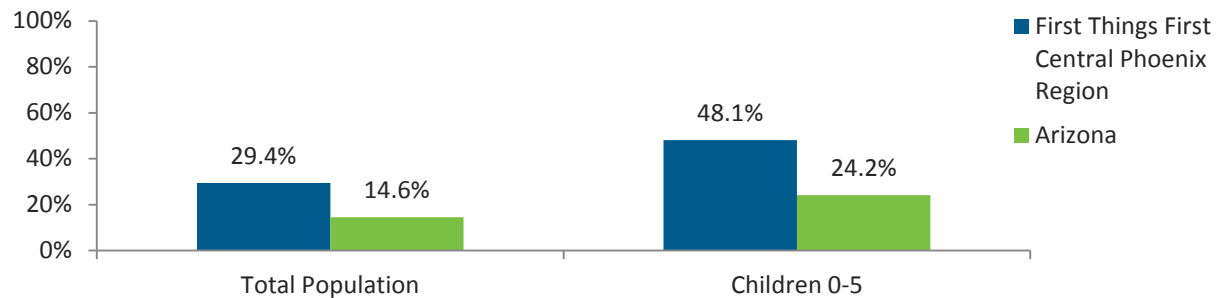
### Federal Poverty Guidelines by Family Size

| FAMILY SIZE | 2010     | 2011     | 2012     | 2013     | 2014     |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1           | \$10,830 | \$10,890 | \$11,170 | \$11,490 | \$11,670 |
| 2           | \$14,570 | \$14,710 | \$15,130 | \$15,510 | \$15,730 |
| 3           | \$18,310 | \$18,530 | \$19,090 | \$19,530 | \$19,790 |
| 4           | \$22,050 | \$22,350 | \$23,050 | \$23,550 | \$23,850 |
| 5           | \$25,790 | \$26,170 | \$27,010 | \$27,570 | \$27,910 |
| 6           | \$29,530 | \$29,990 | \$30,970 | \$31,590 | \$31,970 |
| 7           | \$33,270 | \$33,810 | \$34,930 | \$35,610 | \$36,030 |
| 8           | \$37,010 | \$37,630 | \$38,890 | \$39,630 | \$40,090 |

Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). *Federal Register*. Retrieved from <https://www.federalregister.gov>.  
 Note: In 2014, for families over 8 persons, add \$4,060 for each additional person.

It is estimated that 48% of children under the age of 6 years old in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region are living in poverty, a higher percentage than residents of all ages (29%) and twice that of the state as a whole (24%).

### Poverty Estimates, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

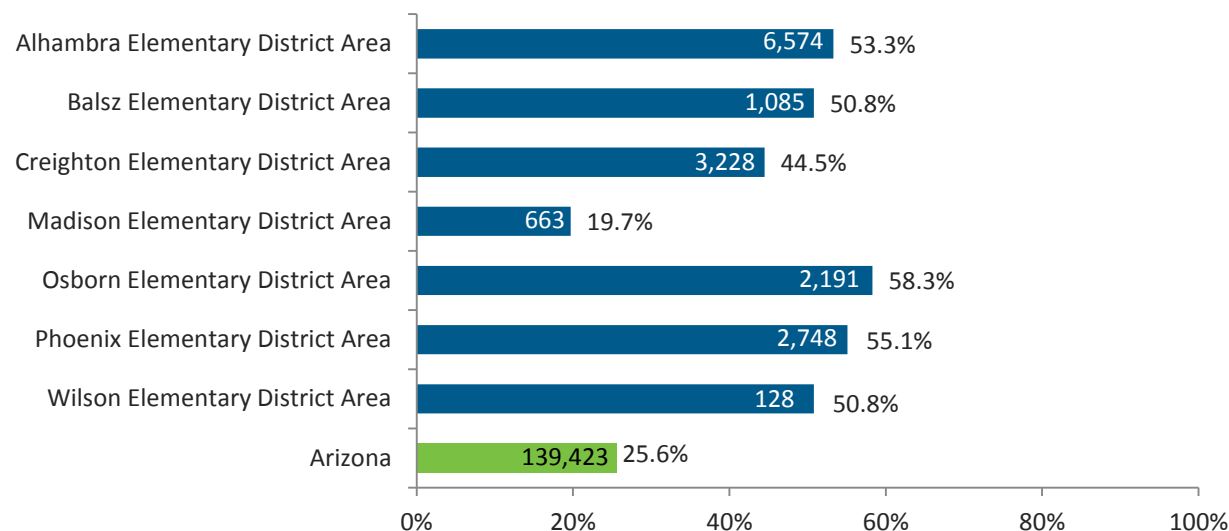


Source: First Things First. (2014). Population and Poverty Estimates.  
 Note: Data based on 2010 U.S. Census data, calculated by census tract.



More than half of children under the age of six years old in Alhambra, Balsz, Osborn, Phoenix, and Wilson Elementary District areas lived in families earning less than the Federal Poverty Level.

### Children Birth Through 5 in Families Earning Less than the Federal Poverty Level, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Table B17006- Poverty status in the past 12 months of related children under 18 years, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Data are based on school district areas, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

## Economic Supports

### Why It Is Important

Many families need economic support to meet their basic needs during periods of reduced income, illness, or unemployment. Some families are falling into the income eligibility gap for support services. To be eligible for federal and state supports, a family has to be earning an extremely low-income. As previously mentioned, there are several programs that use the federal poverty guidelines or a percentage of the federal poverty guidelines (such as 125%, 130% or 185%) to determine eligibility. These programs include Head Start, food stamps, the school lunch program, low-income energy assistance, the children's health insurance program, and Medicare. The federal poverty guideline in 2014 for a family of three is \$19,790 and \$23,850 for a family of four.

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- **The John F. Long Family Services Center** provides emergency rental and utility assistance in crisis situations. The center is located just outside the region.
- **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. Assistance may include direct financial or in-kind service, intervention, or consultation.



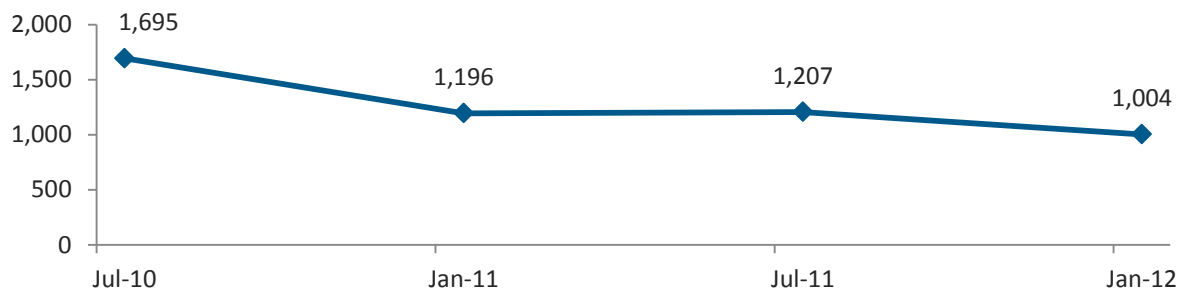
- **Black Family and Child Services of Arizona's Family Support Program** offers a variety of services to families, including assistance in locating emergency shelter, provision of emergency food, diapers and clothing, positive parenting information, and help connecting with other community resources.
- **Catholic Charities** offers a free FDIC-created financial education series focused on financial recovery, credit use, and loans (including how to avoid predatory lending).
- **The Sunnyslope Family Services Center** is a multi-purpose agency offering emergency financial assistance to individuals and families living in Phoenix.

## What the Data Tell Us

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides some temporary cash assistance for struggling families with children, while the parent/parents are trying to return to work.<sup>22</sup> Between July 2010 and January 2012, the number of families with children birth through 5 receiving TANF decreased 41% from 1,695 to 1,004 families in 2012. The substantial decline is mostly the result of legislative action, whereby:

- Effective July 1, 2010, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 60 months to 36 months. All families that had received TANF from 37 to 60 months were immediately removed from the TANF roles.
- Effective August 1, 2011, the Lifetime Benefit Limit for TANF was reduced from 36 months to 24 months. All families that had received TANF for more than 24 months were immediately removed.

## Families with Children Birth Through 5 Receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2013). [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2008, November 20). About TANF. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/tanf/about.html>



## Food Insecurity

### Why It Is Important

Approximately 16 million children lived in households without enough food in the U.S. in 2010. In 2011, Arizona was among the top 5 states with the highest rate of food insecure children under 18.<sup>23</sup>

**“IT IS A HUMBLING, HUMILIATING, AND TRAGIC EXPERIENCE**  
to look yourself in the mirror and say that you cannot feed yourself and your family.”

- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank

The lack of nutritious food is harmful to any individual, but food insecurity is particularly devastating to children and can have long-term consequences. Chronic under nutrition, food insecurity, unhealthy foods, and hunger can lead to poorer physical and mental health, difficulty learning, lower test scores, increased school absences, tardiness, and suspensions.<sup>24</sup> This makes children more likely to experience poverty when they become adults.

For families who earn above 185% of the poverty level (where WIC and SNAP eligibility ends) but are still unable to afford enough food, charitable services and programs become their safety net.<sup>25</sup>

**“FOOD INSECURITY IS DIFFERENT FROM HUNGER,**  
it’s about not having access to enough food for a healthy life.”

- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks

---

<sup>23</sup> Feeding America. (2012). *Child hunger facts*. Retrieved from <http://www.feedingamerica.org>

<sup>24</sup> Center on Hunger and Poverty, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, (2002). *The consequences of hunger and food insecurity for children, evidence from recent scientific studies*. Massachusetts: Brandeis University.

<sup>25</sup> Gundersen, C., E. Waxman, E. Engelhard and J. Brown. (2011). *Map the meal gap: Child food insecurity*. Feeding America.



## Snapshot of Community Assets

- **St. Mary's Food Bank** provides emergency food assistance to individuals and families in need, including breakfast and lunch for children and teens in the summer months. The food bank partners with more than 17 different schools, churches, and organizations in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

***"FOOD BANKS SERVE ABOUT 128,000 FAMILIES EVERY WEEK ACROSS THE STATE of Arizona, with about 65% to 70% of those families in Maricopa County."***

*- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks*

- **Cultural Cup Food Bank** provides emergency food boxes, emergency baby boxes, and medical assistance to residents of Central Phoenix. Proof of address must be shown to receive assistance.
- **Community Food Connections** works to improve access to healthy food in underserved areas, including bringing wireless food stamp terminals to open air markets.
- **Association of Arizona Food Banks** offers information regarding food bank locations, services provided, and other food-related resources.
- **The Phoenix Public Market**, located at 721 N. Central, is open year round and offers a range of local produce.
  - The Phoenix Public Market accepts Quest/EBT cards (electronic food stamps) and Arizona Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers (coupons worth up to \$30 per year for women and children who participate in WIC's Supplemental Nutrition Program).
- **Kitchen on the Street (KOS AZ)** partners with local schools in the Phoenix area to provide food assistance programs to meet the food needs of children and families. They provide Bags of Hope (food backpacks) with individually portioned, shelf-stable meals and snacks on Fridays; family food pantries on school campuses where families can donate their time in the pantry in exchange for food; and Market on the Street centers with perishable food. They also provide financial education.





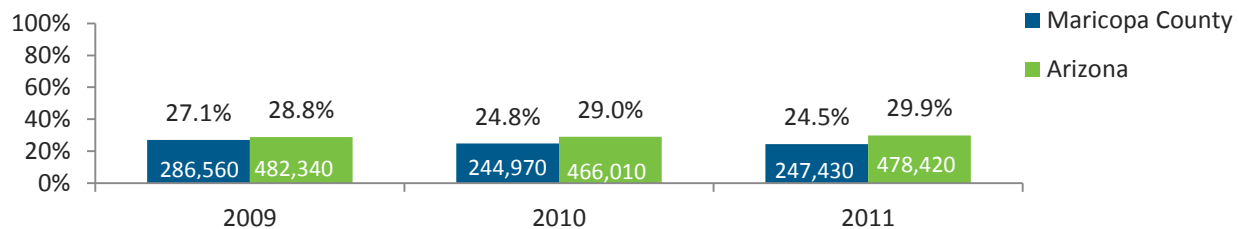
## What the Data Tell Us

Food insecurity refers to the USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food. Food insecure children are those children living in households experiencing food insecurity.<sup>26</sup>

Food insecure households are not necessarily food insecure all the time. Food insecurity may reflect a household's need to make trade-offs between important basic needs, such as housing or medical bills, and purchasing nutritionally adequate foods.<sup>27</sup>

Roughly one in four children in Maricopa County lived in households without enough food in 2011.

### Food Insecurity Rate of Children Under 18



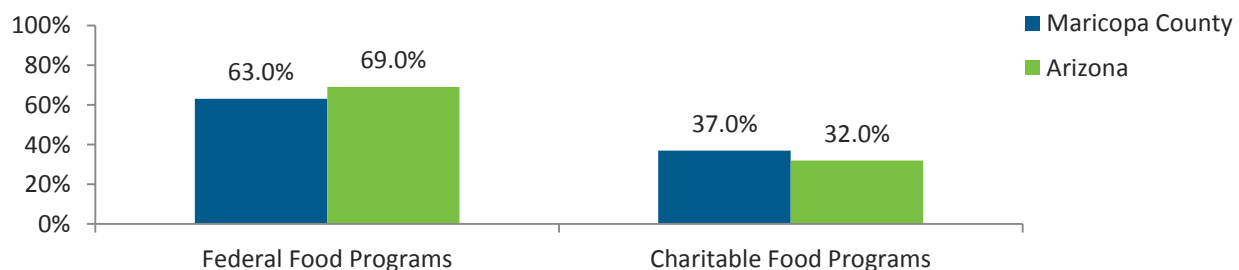
Source: Feeding America (2013). *Map the Gap*. Retrieved from [www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap).

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: Please see methodology for explanation on how the food insecurity rate is calculated.

Over a third (37%) of Maricopa County's food-insecure households had incomes that were not eligible for supplemental federal food services like WIC and SNAP in 2011. Charitable organizations in Maricopa County are tasked with providing services to those households.

### Supplemental Food Program Eligibility of Children Under 18, 2011



Source: Feeding America. (2013). *Map the Gap*. Retrieved from [www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap).

Note: Data presented are the most recent data available.

Note: Due to rounding, percentage may equal more than 100%.

<sup>26</sup> Feeding America (2013). *Map the Gap*. Retrieved from [www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap](http://www.feedingamerica.org/mapthegap).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.



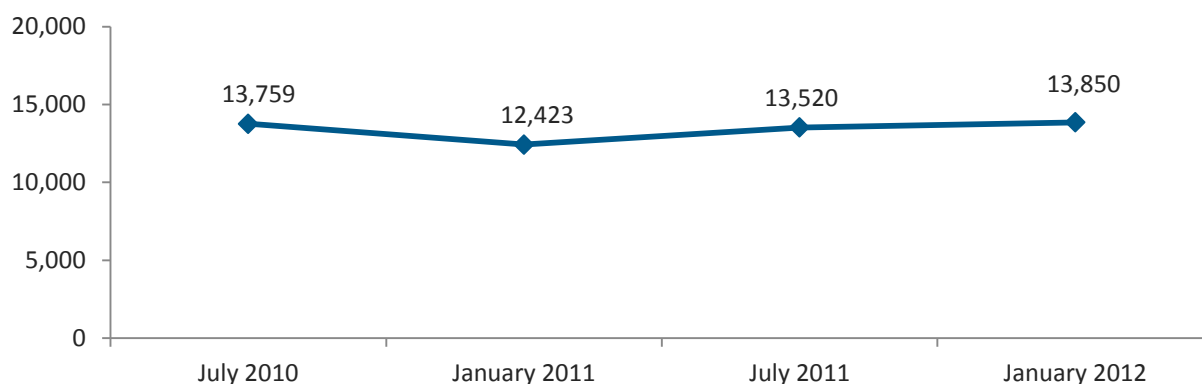
**"THE BENEFIT LEVELS FOR SNAP ARE VERY LOW, ABOUT \$115 FOR AN INDIVIDUAL,** or an average of \$267 for a household per month. That only provides enough food for about 2 ½ weeks. The food bank provides assistance for an additional 2 ½ days. But what do they do for the rest of the month?"

- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks

Many families in the First Things First Central Phoenix region rely on Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with state agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits.<sup>28</sup>

In the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 13,850 families with at least one child age birth through 5 were receiving SNAP benefits in January 2012.

### Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) Recipients, Families with Children Birth Through 5, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients]. Unpublished data. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was formerly the Food Stamp Program.

Note: Data are the combination of all zip codes in the region (see Methodology for list of zip codes).

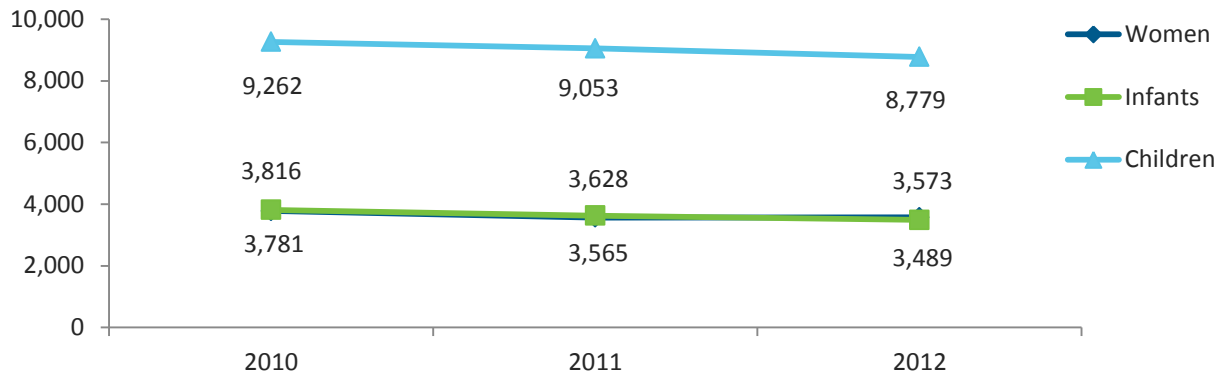
<sup>28</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2014). Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov>



The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is Federal program providing supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.<sup>29</sup>

The number of WIC participants decreased slightly in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region between 2010 and 2012. 12,268 infant and children and 3,573 women were receiving benefits in 2012.

### Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Participants, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2013). [WIC recipients]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are the combination of zip codes in this region (see Methodology for list of zip codes). Data shown for First Things First Central Phoenix Region only includes zip codes that had at least 30 WIC participants per category within them.

The National School Lunch Program qualifies low-income children living in families between 130% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced-cost meals and those at or below 130% of the poverty level for free meals.<sup>30</sup>

The majority of schools in the Alhambra Elementary District (93%) and both schools in the Wilson Elementary School District had over 90% of their students eligible for free and reduced price meals.

<sup>29</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. (2014). Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov>

<sup>30</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009, August). National School Lunch Fact Sheets. Retrieved from <http://www.fns.usda.gov>



### Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First Central Phoenix Region Schools, 2013/2014 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                      | 2013/14 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Alhambra Elementary District</b>  |         |
| Alhambra Traditional School          | 50%     |
| Anadalucia Middle School             | 97%     |
| Barcelona Middle School              | 95%     |
| Carol G. Peck Elementary School      | 98%     |
| Catalina Ventura School              | 91%     |
| Cordova Middle School                | 97%     |
| Cordova Primary School               | 98%     |
| Granada East School                  | 96%     |
| Granada Primary School               | ≥99%    |
| James W. Rice Primary School         | 92%     |
| Montebello School                    | 97%     |
| R E Simpson School                   | 97%     |
| Sevilla Primary School               | 95%     |
| Sevilla West School                  | 95%     |
| Westwood Primary School              | 98%     |
| <b>Balsz Elementary District</b>     |         |
| Balsz Elementary School              | 94%     |
| Brunson-Lee Elementary School        | 91%     |
| David Crocket Elementary School      | 96%     |
| Griffith Elementary School           | 87%     |
| Orangedale early Learning Center     | 25-29%  |
| <b>Creighton Elementary District</b> |         |
| Biltmore Preparatory Academy         | 37%     |
| Career Success School-Sage Campus    | 75-79%  |
| Creighton Elementary School          | 95%     |
| Excelencia School                    | 92%     |
| Gateway School                       | 96%     |
| Larry C Kennedy School               | 94%     |
| Loma Linda Elementary School         | 92%     |
| Monte Vista Elementary School        | 94%     |
| Papago School                        | 90%     |
| The ACES-East                        | 40-44%  |
| William T Machan Elementary School   | 97%     |
| <b>Osborn Elementary District</b>    |         |
| Clarendon School                     | 83%     |
| Longview Elementary School           | 91%     |
| Osborn Middle School                 | 89%     |
| Solano School                        | 91%     |
| <b>Wilson Elementary District</b>    |         |
| Wilson Elementary School             | 97%     |
| Wilson Primary School                | 97%     |
| <b>Madison Elementary District</b>   |         |
| Madison #1 Elementary School         | 55%     |
| Madison Camelview Elementary         | 83%     |
| Madison Heights Elementary School    | 34%     |
| Madison Meadows School               | 24%     |
| Madison Park School                  | 76%     |
| Madison Richard Simis School         | 21%     |



## Children Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals, First Things First Central Phoenix Region Schools, 2013/2014 School Year (Cont.)

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                             | 2013/14 |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Madison Elementary District (Cont.)</b>  |         |
| Madison Rose Lane School                    | 57%     |
| Madison Traditional Academy                 | 12%     |
| <b>Phoenix Elementary District</b>          |         |
| ASU Preparatory Academy-Phoenix Elementary  | 74%     |
| ASU Preparatory Academy-Phoenix High School | 68%     |
| Augustus H Shaw Jr School                   | 72%     |
| Capitol Elementary School                   | 93%     |
| Faith North Elementary School               | 32%     |
| Garfield School                             | 97%     |
| Kenilworth Elementary School                | 69%     |
| Lowell Elementary School                    | 77%     |
| Magnet Traditional School                   | 72%     |
| Maie Bartlett Heard School                  | 79%     |
| Mary Mcleod Bethune School                  | 95%     |
| Paul Dunbar Lawrence School                 | 81%     |
| Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School       | 84%     |
| Silvestre S Herrera School                  | 77%     |
| Thomas A Edison School                      | 91%     |
| Whittier Elementary School                  | 88%     |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *National school lunch program and school breakfast program*. Received from First Things First.

### **"AT THE FOOD BANKS WE ARE SEEING MORE AND MORE WORKING FAMILIES**

who are just not earning enough, an increasing number of military families, and aging baby boomers—more seniors are coming. We don't have enough food for people. They can only access the food bank once a month. We don't like to deny food to any family, so we try not to turn people away, but we often will ration food instead."

- Angie Rodgers, President and CEO, Association of Arizona Food Banks

## Housing Affordability and Foreclosures

### Why It Is Important

The physical condition of a home, the neighborhood in which it is located, and the cost of rent or mortgage are strongly associated with the health, wellbeing, educational achievement, and economic success of those who live inside the home. A study by Children's Health Watch found that children of families that were behind on their mortgage/rent in the past year were more likely



to be in poor health and have an increased risk of developmental delays than children whose families were stably housed.<sup>31</sup>

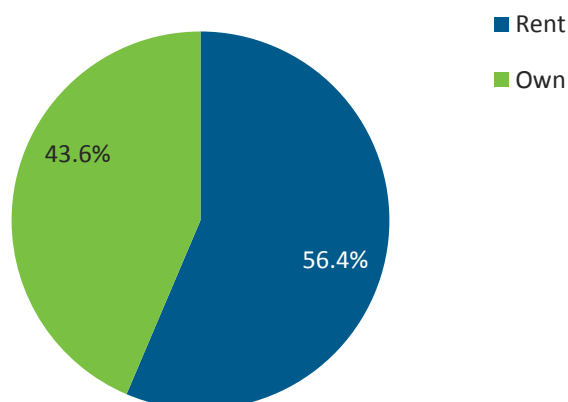
The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of affordable housing is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Individuals who spend more than 30% of their income on housing may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.

Many families across the country have been negatively affected by the mortgage crisis. When foreclosures force children out of their homes, they are affected both physically and emotionally. While not all children who experience a foreclosure will become homeless, they often experience the same increased mobility associated with homelessness.<sup>32</sup>

### What the Data Tell Us

The majority of occupied housing units in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region were renter-occupied representing about 56% of all units, according to 2007-2011 estimates.

#### Owner vs Renter Occupied Units, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



N=130,437 occupied units

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table DP04 - Selected housing characteristics, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

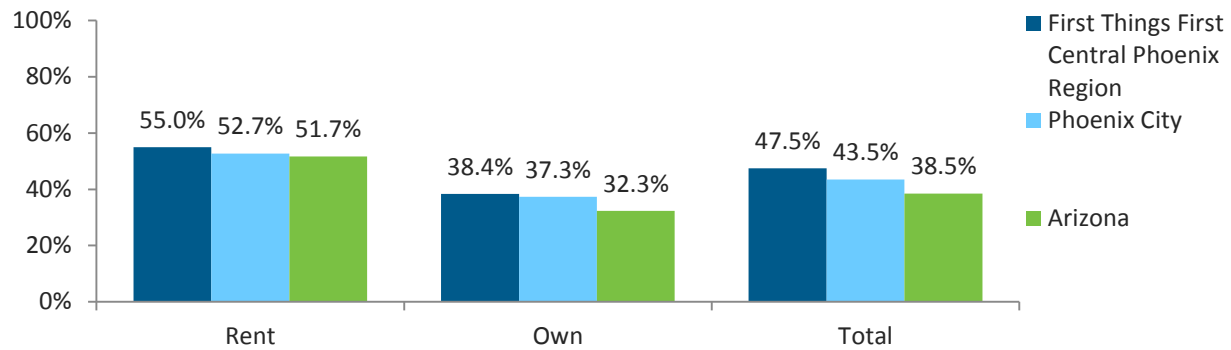
---

<sup>31</sup> Children's Health Watch. (2011). Behind closed doors: The hidden health impacts of being behind on rent. Retrieved from <http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org>

<sup>32</sup> Lovell, P. and Isaacs, J. (2008). *The Impact of the Mortgage Crisis on Children and Their Education*. First Focus, Brookings Institute. Retrieved June 29 2010 from [http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04\\_mortgage\\_crisis\\_isaacs.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/04_mortgage_crisis_isaacs.aspx)

Although HUD recommends spending no more than 30% of one's income on housing costs, about half (48%) of residents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported spending more than 30%, according to 2007-2011 estimates. Renters in the region, the city of Phoenix, and Arizona spent more of their income on housing than did residents who own.

### Percentage of Residents Spending 30% or More of Income on Housing, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table DP04- Selected housing characteristics 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

Foreclosure rates have decreased drastically since the 2012 when 1 in 300 homes in Arizona were in foreclosure.<sup>33</sup> Still, in February 2013 the foreclosure rate in Maricopa County was higher than the state overall, 1 in 1,150 compared to 1 in 1,305. In the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, foreclosure rates remain high in both the 85017 and 85019 zip codes.

<sup>33</sup> RealtyTrac. (2012). Foreclosure rates. Retrieved from <http://www.realtytrac.com>



### Foreclosure Rate by Zip Code, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, February 2014

| ZIP CODES              | NUMBER OF FORECLOSURES | RATE OF FORECLOSURES |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 85003                  | 37                     | 1 in 1,537           |
| 85004                  | 38                     | NA                   |
| 85006                  | 90                     | 1 in 1,250           |
| 85007                  | 65                     | 1 in 2,929           |
| 85008                  | 224                    | 1 in 2,902           |
| 85012                  | 34                     | NA                   |
| 85013                  | 93                     | 1 in 1,144           |
| 85014                  | 149                    | 1 in 2,059           |
| 85015                  | 193                    | 1 in 1,418           |
| 85016                  | 235                    | 1 in 1,482           |
| 85017                  | 206                    | 1 in 883             |
| 85018                  | 153                    | 1 in 2,827           |
| 85019                  | 162                    | 1 in 612             |
| 85034                  | 30                     | NA                   |
| <b>Maricopa County</b> | <b>1,076</b>           | <b>1 in 1,150</b>    |
| <b>Arizona</b>         | <b>NA</b>              | <b>1 in 1,305</b>    |

Source: RealtyTrac. (2014). *Trend Center*. Retrieved from <http://www.realtytrac.com/trendcenter/az-trend.html>.

Note: The foreclosure rate is provided by RealtyTrac and is calculated by dividing the total number of properties that received foreclosure filings during the month by the total housing units (based on the most recent estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau).

Note: Data are not available for all geographic areas.

## Homelessness

### Why It Is Important

Homelessness among young children, and the high mobility often associated with homelessness, can lead to behavior problems and reduced academic success in school.<sup>34</sup> The McKinney-Vento Act ensures that homeless children receive transportation to and from school free of charge, allowing children to attend their school of origin (last school enrolled or the school they attended when they first became homeless), regardless of what district the family resides in. It requires schools to register homeless children even if they lack normally required documents, such as immunization records or proof of residence.<sup>35</sup>

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The act provides examples of children who would fall under this definition:

<sup>34</sup> Zerger, S. (2004). Health care for homeless Native Americans. *National Health Care for the Homeless Council*. Retrieved from <http://www.nhchc.org>

<sup>35</sup> Though the definition of homeless was expanded in 2012 to include those who are unstably housed, or in imminent danger of losing their nighttime residence, the data presented reflect information collected prior to the definitional change.





1. Children sharing housing due to economic hardship or loss of housing;
2. Children living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;
3. Children living in emergency or transitional shelters;
4. Children awaiting foster care placement;
5. Children whose primary nighttime residence is not ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g. park benches, etc.);
6. Children living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, a bus or train station.<sup>36</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Madison Street Veterans Association** offers emergency shelter and day to day shelter for veterans who are homeless. Other programs include job search assistance and a transitional living house for veterans seeking to become more self-sufficient.
- **Phoenix Shanti Group** provides housing, education, and client services to individuals and loved ones affected by HIV/AIDS. Transitional housing is available for those who qualify and both counseling and rehabilitation services are available as well.
- **UMOM New Day Centers** offer short-term shelter and support services to homeless families. Other programs and populations served are transitional housing for veterans, a shelter for single women, and a child development center for UMOM resident children.
- **The Vista Colina Emergency Family Shelter** located on S. 12<sup>th</sup> street, offers temporary housing and other resources to homeless families for up to 90 days. The apartment-style complex includes 18 two-bedroom units specifically for adults with children under 18.

### What the Data Tell Us

In 2013, a total of 1,156 students enrolled in the school districts served by the First Things First Central Phoenix Region were identified as homeless.

In 2013, Alhambra Elementary District reported 476 enrolled students were experiencing homelessness, 4% of the overall student population. Wilson Elementary District reported 79 students experiencing homelessness; this represented more than 8% of the districts enrolled students.

---

<sup>36</sup> McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. § 11317 (1987).



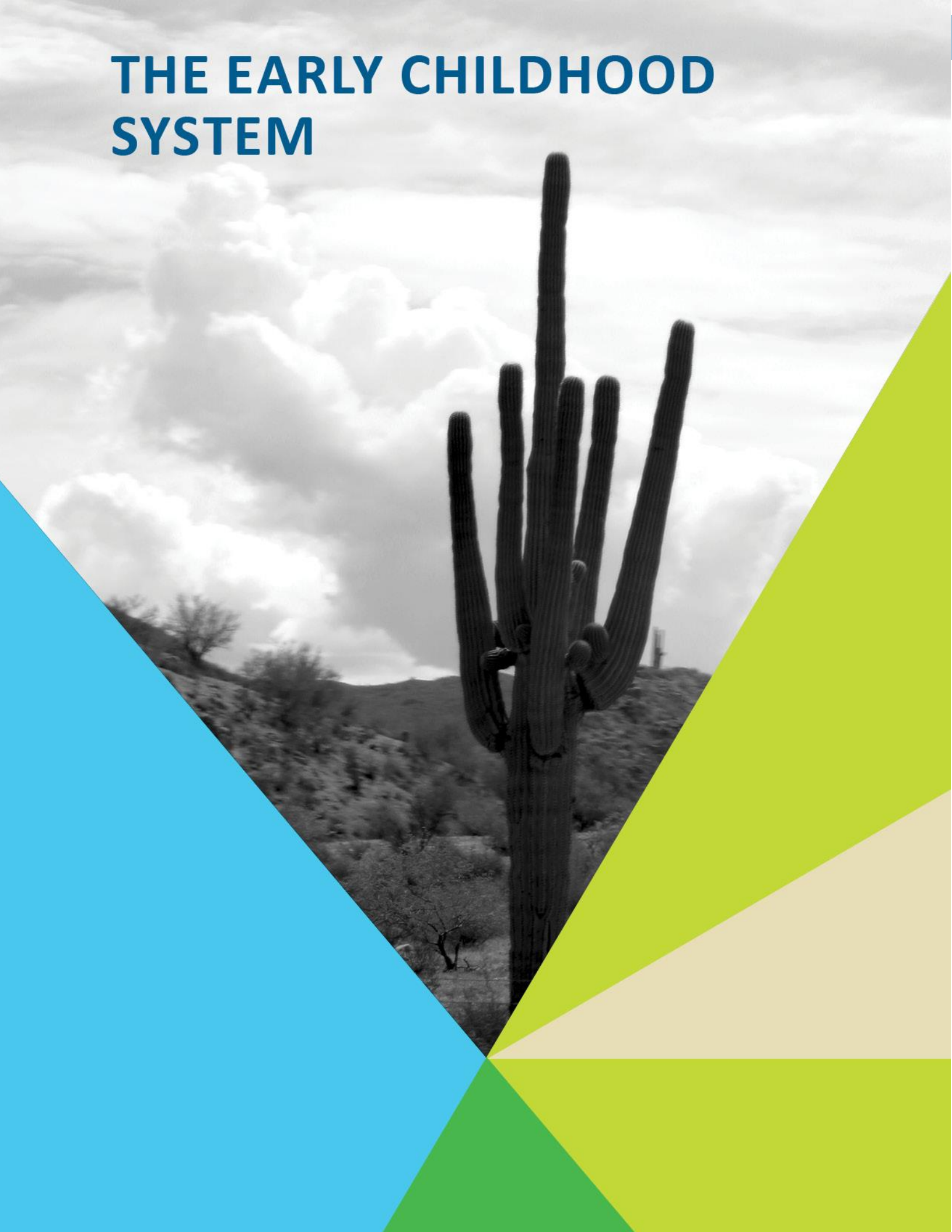
### Homeless Children, First Things First Central Phoenix Region School Districts

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | 2011 |      | 2012 |      | 2013 |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                               | #    | %    | #    | %    | #    | %    |
| Alhambra Elementary District  | 470  | 4.2% | 506  | 4.5% | 476  | 4.1% |
| Balsz Elementary District     | 87   | 3.8% | 91   | 4.0% | 111  | 5.0% |
| Creighton Elementary District | 350  | 6.6% | 267  | 5.0% | 186  | 3.4% |
| Madison Elementary District   | 12   | 0.2% | 21   | 0.4% | 13   | 0.3% |
| Osborn Elementary District    | 76   | 3.0% | 104  | 4.3% | 87   | 3.5% |
| Phoenix Elementary District   | 211  | 3.4% | 210  | 3.3% | 204  | 3.3% |
| Wilson Elementary District    | 47   | 5.2% | 65   | 6.3% | 79   | 8.2% |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). [Homeless children by school district]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.



# THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM



# EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Children begin learning at birth and need quality learning environments that support optimal growth and development. Children exposed to high quality early education are less likely to need additional support later in school, score higher on school readiness tests and are more likely to advance to college.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

### Early Child Care and Development

- Child Care Access and Enrollment
- Cost of Child Care
- Child Care Providers
- Parent Knowledge of Child Development

### Special Needs

- Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services

### Education

- School Enrollment
- School Readiness
- 3rd Grade Test Scores
- Graduation Rate
- Educational Attainment
- Family Literacy



## Early Child Care and Development

---

### Child Care Access and Enrollment

#### Why It Is Important

Quality child care helps children develop social and cognitive skills in preparation for school and life success.<sup>37</sup> Child care, and in particular, subsidized care for low-income families, provides critical support for working families. Child care choices include center-based facilities, family and child care homes, and informal care by family (kin) and friends (kith).

Family, friend, and neighborhood child care programs are a likely option for parents who cannot afford licensed child care centers or live in areas where licensed child care centers are not available. In Arizona as many as 50% of children birth through 5 are being cared for by relatives or neighbors.<sup>38</sup> Family, friend, and neighbor programs are used to provide these relatives and neighbors with access to information and training on child development, health, and safety issues.

Quality Child Care is defined by the Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R) as having the following indicators of quality in a child care program.<sup>39</sup> These apply to centers and home-based programs:

- *Health and Safety:* Meeting the state's health and safety standards. DES Certified Homes, DHS Certified Group Homes, DHS Licensed Child Care Centers and CCR&R Registered Homes are all required to have at least one person that is CPR and First Aid certified.
- *Supervision:* Children having adult supervision at all times, including while sleeping, "to prevent injuries and ensure children are engaged in activities to promote healthy growth and development."
- *Group Sizes:* Matching the child's needs with the right group size to enhance learning.

---

<sup>37</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. (2010). *Link between child care and academic achievement and behavior persists into adolescence*. Retrieved from <http://www.nichd.nih.gov>

<sup>38</sup> First Things First. (2011). *Annual report*. Retrieved from [http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF\\_Annual\\_Report\\_FY2010\\_web.pdf](http://www.azftf.gov/WhoWeAre/Board/Documents/FTF_Annual_Report_FY2010_web.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> Arizona Child Care Resource & Referral. (2014). *Quality indicators – What to look for*. Retrieved from <http://www.arizonachildcare.org/families/childcare-indicators.html>



- *“Ratios:* The younger the child, the more one-on-one care he/she may need.” For DES Certified Homes, there is 1 adult for every 6 children ratio in place. For a DHS Certified Group Home, the rate is 1 adult for every 5 children. For DHS Licensed Child Care Centers, this ratio varies by age and number of children within this age group. For example, for infants, the ratio is 1:5 while the ratio for children 5 years and older is 1:20.
- *“Caregiver Education and Turnover:* An important indicator of quality is the level of education and continuing professional development that the child care provider has. In addition, low staff turnover provides consistency of care for children.” Training requirements vary by type of child care. For Certified Homes, there must be at least 6 hours of training per year, while Certified Group Homes and Licensed Child Care Centers must have 12 and 18 hours, respectively.
- *“Accreditation:* Generally, being an accredited program means they follow the national standards with the purpose of meeting higher requirements than the minimum state regulations.”
- *“Family Involvement:* Quality programs work closely with parents to ensure that they are kept informed about their child’s development, and that they offer family members both planned and unplanned opportunities to observe and participate in activities.”

**“WHEN FAMILIES CAN’T AFFORD CHILD CARE, THEY HAVE TO FACE A CHOICE**

of leaving their kids home alone or risk loss of their job. When they can’t get health care, they have to cope with sick children or end up in the emergency room after their child becomes even sicker.

These are two specific safety net services that were cut and which directly contribute to the number of neglect reports that are received by the Department.”

- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

## Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:*
  - Funds mental health consultation to teachers and caregivers, and tuition reimbursement to support professional development to increase the capacity of the workforce.
  - Provides Quality First funding to early care and education centers and homes to improve program quality. Quality First was started by First Things First in 2009 to increase the availability of quality early care and education in child care centers and homes. It is a voluntary quality improvement and rating system for programs serving children birth through 5. This system helps providers to: develop lessons focused on early literacy; support teachers in becoming better trained to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; and purchase age-appropriate learning materials. The ratings of nearly 1,000 providers are publicly available to parents





across the state at <http://qualityfirstaz.com/index.html>. The Quality First website provides a checklist that parents can use to help assess the quality of child care centers and homes and the ratings of nearly 1,000 providers. This information can be found at <http://qualityfirstaz.com/parents-and-families/tools-to-help-you-choose/QFChecklist082013-Version1.pdf>

- Funds a Quality First Mental Health Warmline for child care providers who need information about mental health services.
- Funds Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) which provides training and financial resources to family, friend and neighbor caregivers. The program works to improve the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes.
- ***The Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)*** helps parents to find quality early care programs in their community. CCR&R maintains a list of child care providers who are licensed by the Department of Health Services, certified by the Department of Economic Security, or registered with the CCR&R. There are providers that are registered with the CCR&R that are not licensed or certified but do meet the minimum requirements of passing a Child Protective Services background check and receiving CPR and First Aid training. CCR&R helps to match children to programs that fit their needs based on age, personality, special needs, and location. Parents are also provided with a checklist to use when visiting potential child care providers. More information on CCR&R can be found at <http://arizonachildcare.org/families/find-quality-childcare.html>
- ***The Head Start Program*** is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. Head Start programs are available throughout the Phoenix area. Head Start programs in Arizona annually serve nearly 23,000 children and over 21,500 families through a network of 30 community-based non-profit organizations, Indian Tribal Council, local governments, and school districts. Altogether, Head Start programs provide comprehensive Head Start services at over 500 locations throughout the state.

***“WE ONLY SERVE 27% OF THOSE CHILDREN WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR HEAD START.  
We don’t come anywhere close to serving all the children who are eligible.”***

*- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,  
City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division*



## What the Data Tell Us

There were 64,632 children birth through 11 living in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, with approximately 33,042 who needed child care, according to the 2007-2011 estimates. The estimated number of children who needed child care is based on married families with both parents working and single parent families with one parent working. Based on these estimates, only 52% of children birth through 11 years old who needed care had child care slots available to them in 2013. This left an estimated 15,875 children birth through 11 without formal child care, forcing parents to look for alternative solutions such as relying on support from friends and family.

### Estimated Child Care Need and Availability, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

| CHILD CARE INDICATOR                                                                           | RESULT       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Estimated Number of Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force                       | 33,042       |
| Estimated Number of Child Care Slots (Ages 0-12)                                               | 17,167       |
| <b>Children (Ages 0-11) with Parents in the Labor Force with Licensed Child Care Available</b> | <b>52.0%</b> |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B23008- Age of Own Children Under 18 Years in Families and Subfamilies by Living Arrangements by Employment Status of Parents. *American Community Survey 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2014 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.  
U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table B09001- Population Under 18 Years. *American Community Survey 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates*. Retrieved 2014 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Data are based on ZCTA zip codes, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

Note: For more information on how the estimated child care need and availability were calculated please see Appendix A.

There were a total of 200 child care programs in the region with an approved capacity of 17,167 slots for children birth through 12. The majority of child care slots (60%) were offered by child care centers. The First Things First Central Phoenix Region has 75 Quality First child care providers.

### Child Care Programs and Capacity, First Things First Central Phoenix Region, 2013

|                                                                 | NUMBER OF PROGRAMS | APPROVED CAPACITY |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ADHS Licensed Programs</b>                                   |                    |                   |
| Child Care Centers                                              | 118                | 10,236            |
| Child Care Public Schools                                       | 33                 | 6,651             |
| Child Care Small Group Homes                                    | 8                  | 80                |
| <b>ADES Certified Programs</b>                                  |                    |                   |
| Child Care Homes                                                | 24                 | 132               |
| <b>Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&amp;R)<sup>1</sup></b> |                    |                   |
| Registered Child Care Homes                                     | 17                 | 68                |
| <b>Total Programs</b>                                           | <b>200</b>         | <b>17,167</b>     |
| Enrolled Quality First Programs                                 | 75                 | NA                |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2014). Child care centers and small groups homes by zip code. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (2014). First Things First Central Phoenix Region CCR&R. Received from First Things First.

Note: Approved capacity includes slots for children ages birth through 12 years. Therefore, the capacity for children birth through 5 may be less than the values presented.

Note: Total programs and total approved capacity do not include capacity from unregulated/unregistered child care homes.





Quality First – a signature program of First Things First – partners with regulated early child care providers to make quality, research-based improvements to help children birth through 5 thrive. Quality First has provided education for teachers to expand their expertise in working with young children. As of May 2014, there were over 900 Quality First early care and education settings in the state of Arizona serving just over 50,000 children between the ages of 0-5, which is approximately 9% of the 0-5 population.

There were approximately 3,650 children birth through 5 enrolled in a Quality First Program in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region as of May 30, 2014. One-quarter of children were enrolled in Quality First sites with a star rating of 3-5.

### Quality First Enrollment by Quality First Star Ratings, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

| QUALITY FIRST RATING   | 0-2 YEARS OLD | 3-5 YEARS OLD | SPECIAL NEEDS & SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS | TOTAL ENROLLMENT | PROVIDERS |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 1-2 Stars <sup>1</sup> | 1,048         | 1,693         | 182                                  | 2,923            | NA        |
| 3-5 Stars <sup>2</sup> | 171           | 458           | 98                                   | 727              | NA        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>1,219</b>  | <b>2,151</b>  | <b>280</b>                           | <b>3,650</b>     | <b>75</b> |

Source: Arizona First Things First. (2014). *Personal correspondence with program representative*. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Data on enrollment pulled May 30, 2014. Data on providers pulled June 20, 2014.

Note: Enrollment data are self-reported by the child care provider. Child enrollment numbers do not include children with special needs.

<sup>1</sup>Committed or approaching quality standards.

<sup>2</sup>Meets or exceeds quality standards.

The Head Start Program is a program of the United States Department of Health and Human Services that provides comprehensive education, health, and nutrition to low-income children and their families. In 2012-2013 Head Start served almost 2,000 children in the Phoenix area; Early Head Start served more than 1,200; and Migrant Head Start served over 800.

#### **“WE ARE SEEING MORE NEWLY QUALIFYING FAMILIES FOR HEAD START.**

They had good jobs, but then they lost them in the economic crisis. They don’t even know how to access services, and they need support around the guilt and embarrassment of applying for services.”

- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,  
City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division



## Head Start and Early Head Start Enrollment Demographics, Phoenix Area<sup>1</sup>, 2012-13

|                                    | EARLY HEAD START | HEAD START | MIGRANT HEAD START |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------|
| <b>Enrollment</b>                  |                  |            |                    |
| Funded Enrollment <sup>2</sup>     | 836              | 1,653      | 840                |
| Cumulative Enrollment <sup>3</sup> | 1,203            | 1,912      | 840                |
| <b>Age</b>                         |                  |            |                    |
| Pregnant Women                     | 3.7%             | 0.0%       | 0.0%               |
| Less than 1 Year Old               | 28.7%            | 0.0%       | 8.1%               |
| 1 Year Old                         | 32.7%            | 0.0%       | 11.5%              |
| 2 Years Old                        | 33.4%            | 0.1%       | 18.0%              |
| 3 Years Old                        | 1.6%             | 29.6%      | 28.0%              |
| 4 Years Old                        | 0.0%             | 70.3%      | 34.4%              |
| <b>Demographics</b>                |                  |            |                    |
| Income Eligible                    | 84.3%            | 88.4%      | 89.5%              |
| Receipt of Public Assistance       | 9.4%             | 6.7%       | 1.5%               |
| Foster Children                    | 1.4%             | 0.8%       | 0.2%               |
| Homeless                           | 3.3%             | 1.7%       | 0.6%               |
| Over Income                        | 1.6%             | 2.4%       | 8.1%               |

Source: Arizona Head Start. (2013). [Head start program information reports.] Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

<sup>1</sup>Phoenix Area data include the following Head Start Grantees: Chicanos Por La Causa, Southwest Human Development, City of Phoenix, and Crisis Nursery, Inc.

<sup>2</sup>The term "funded enrollment" refers to the number of children and pregnant women that are supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year. Funded enrollment numbers include enrollment slots funded by State or other funds when used by grantees as required nonfederal match.

<sup>3</sup>The term "cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant women that Head Start programs serve throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the Program Information Report, than indicated by the funded enrollment numbers.

**"WE SEE TREMENDOUS GROWTH IN THE CHILDREN THAT COME TO HEAD START,** especially in language, literacy, and math. They come in really low, but then they have the greatest gains in those three areas. One kindergarten teacher told me that she can always pick out the Head Start students in her classroom. They are much more prepared to start kindergarten than their peers who haven't had the benefit of quality preschool."

*- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,  
City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division*



## Cost of Child Care

### Why It Is Important

Child care can be very costly for families. The cost of child care has grown twice as fast as the median income of families with children in the United States since 2000.<sup>40</sup> However, some families are benefiting from local child care programs and subsidies that significantly lessen these costs. For those who qualify, Head Start child care is provided at no cost to parents. Low-income parents who are working, in job training, or in school can receive child care subsidies through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). The statutory limit for eligibility for child care assistance is 85% of the state median income. In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security (DES) administers CCDF subsidies. In addition to CCDF subsidies, Arizona was the first in the nation to launch a statewide scholarship program through its First Things First Emergency Child Care Scholarships.

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds Quality First Child Care Scholarships that enable children from low-income families to attend quality early care and education programs.
- ***Department of Economic Security (DES) Subsidies*** assist eligible families in Arizona with child care costs, enabling parents to participate in employment and specific education and training activities related to employment, or in certain other circumstances when parents are unable to provide care. Families may choose from a variety of child care providers including Department of Health Services (DHS) licensed child care centers, DHS-certified child care group homes, DES-certified small family child care homes, and in some instances, non-certified relatives.

### What the Data Tell Us

The median daily cost of full-time child care in Maricopa County ranged from \$20.00 for an approved child care home to \$42.50 for center based care in 2012. For part-time child care, the median daily cost ranged from \$10.00 to \$33.40. Having a child under one in child care was more costly on a daily basis than having a child ages one through five.

---

<sup>40</sup> McSweeney, T. (January 29, 2010). Helping middle class families with soaring child care costs. *The White House*. Retrieved from <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/29/helping-middle-class-families-with-soaring-child-care-costs>



**Median Daily Cost of Child Care, Maricopa County, 2012**

| AGE OF CHILD                | CENTERS | APPROVED HOMES | CERTIFIED GROUP HOMES | UNREGULATED HOMES |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Full Time</b>            |         |                |                       |                   |
| Children Under One          | \$42.50 | \$20.00        | \$30.00               | \$30.00           |
| 1 and 2 Year Olds           | \$39.07 | \$20.00        | \$26.00               | \$30.00           |
| 3, 4, and 5 Year Olds       | \$34.00 | \$20.00        | \$26.00               | \$30.00           |
| <b>Part Time</b>            |         |                |                       |                   |
| Children Under One Year Old | \$33.40 | \$12.00        | \$20.23               | \$20.00           |
| 1 and 2 Year Olds           | \$31.20 | \$12.00        | \$20.00               | \$20.00           |
| 3, 4, and 5 Year Olds       | \$24.50 | \$10.00        | \$19.00               | \$20.00           |

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). *Child care market rate survey, District 1*. Maricopa County Research and Reporting. Received from First Things First.

Note: Part-time is fewer than 6 hours a day.

Note: Data presented are for the Arizona Department of Economic Security's District 1, Maricopa County.

For decades, Arizona has assisted eligible families with a portion of the cost of child care through a voucher program that the legislature established under welfare reform. Assistance is provided to three categories of families: 1) Child Protective Services (CPS) and foster care related, 2) Welfare to Work, and 3) Low income working families struggling to support their children and stay off welfare. CPS and welfare-related child care are considered mandatory and not subject to the waiting list.<sup>41</sup>

In February 2009, the state began turning away all eligible low income working families by placing them on a waiting list. To date, all state funds have been eliminated from the subsidy; the subsidy was cut \$81 million, a 40% reduction overall; 22,300 fewer children are being served; over 33,000 children have been denied; children from low income working families have been reduced 70%; 7,200 children are on the waiting list (this does not reflect the total need); and 2,800 jobs are already lost – including teachers no longer employed due to budget cuts.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Arizona Child Care Association. (2013, May 10). Status of child care subsidy. Retrieved from <http://azcca.org/category/des-news>

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.



The number of children receiving child care subsidies in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region decreased from 2,317 children in 2009 to 1,306 in 2012, a loss for 1,011 children.

### Children Eligible and Receiving Child Care Subsidies

|                                                  | 2009   | 2010   | 2011   | 2012   |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Central Phoenix Region</b>                    |        |        |        |        |
| Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies        | 3,124  | 1,864  | 1,740  | 1,466  |
| Number of Children Receiving Subsidies           | 2,317  | 1,450  | 1,434  | 1,306  |
| Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies | 74.2%  | 77.8%  | 82.4%  | 89.1%  |
| <b>Arizona</b>                                   |        |        |        |        |
| Number of Children Eligible for Subsidies        | 38,126 | 23,244 | 21,511 | 19,426 |
| Number of Children Receiving Subsidies           | 29,089 | 17,891 | 17,596 | 17,765 |
| Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Subsidies | 76.3%  | 77.0%  | 81.8%  | 89.9%  |

Source: Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Child care subsidies]. Unpublished data. Received 2014 from First Things First.

Note: Data are reported as of January of each year.

## Child Care Providers

### Why It Is Important

The preparation and ongoing professional development of early child care professionals is closely linked to increased student learning and development.<sup>43</sup> According to the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, teachers who have good preparation in early childhood education can apply their knowledge of child development, use appropriate teaching strategies, meet the social/emotional demands of young children, understand children's thinking, know how to build student learning over time, and understand language and literacy developments.

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:
  - Funds Family, Friends, and Neighbors (FFN) which provides training and financial resources to family, friend and neighbor caregivers. The program works to improve the quality of care and education that children receive in unregulated child care homes.

<sup>43</sup> Bowman, B. T., Donovan, M. S., & Burns, M. S. (2000). Eager to learn: Educating our preschoolers. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.



- Provides TEACH scholarships to help child care center teachers, directors, and providers obtain their Early Childhood Associate's Degree or Child Development Associate (CDA) certificate. The program offers recipients with support for tuition, books, travel, and paid release time.
- Offers professional REWARD\$ to help retain qualified teachers to care for and educate young children. The program was launched in FY 2010 and provides each recipient with financial incentives ranging from \$300 to \$2,000.
- Funds mental health consultation to teachers and caregivers, and tuition reimbursement to support professional development to increase the capacity of the workforce.
- Provides consultation and training to child care providers about how to best meet the needs of children with special needs in their early care and education settings.
- ***The Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)*** offers community based trainings. More information on CCR&R can be found at <http://arizonachildcare.org/families/find-quality-childcare.html>
- ***Department of Economic Security (DES) Child Care Administration*** and ***Arizona Department of Education- Early Childhood Unit*** provide resources and education child care providers to help support development, program administration, and Arizona's Early Childhood Standards.

## What the Data Tell Us

First Things First conducted a statewide study of child care providers in 2012. Data from the report suggest that wages, education level, and benefits were all predictors of the retention of early child childhood teachers. The report also showed that early care and education teachers in Arizona are compensated with half the salary of kindergarten and elementary school teachers in the state. Those working for Head Start and the public school system reported the highest levels of education, wages, and retention.

In 2013, many Head Start teachers in the Phoenix Area had completed degrees in early childhood education. Among Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant Head Start teachers 252 held a Bachelor's or Advanced Degree and of those, more than two-thirds had concentrated in early childhood education.



## Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant Head Start Provider Qualifications, Phoenix Area<sup>1</sup>, 2013

|                                                | TEACHERS<br>(PRESCHOOL AND<br>INFANT AND<br>TODDLER) |       | ASSISTANT TEACHERS<br>(PRESCHOOL) |       |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Advanced Degree                                |                                                      |       |                                   |       |
| ECE                                            | 26                                                   | 6.9%  | 0                                 | 0.0%  |
| Non ECE                                        | 4                                                    | 1.1%  | 0                                 | 0.0%  |
| Bachelor's Degree                              |                                                      |       |                                   |       |
| ECE                                            | 132                                                  | 35.2% | 11                                | 3.3%  |
| Non ECE                                        | 52                                                   | 13.9% | 9                                 | 2.7%  |
| Enrolled in Advanced Degree                    | 18                                                   | 4.8%  | 0                                 | 0.0%  |
| Associates Degree                              |                                                      |       |                                   |       |
| ECE                                            | 58                                                   | 15.5% | 31                                | 9.2%  |
| Non ECE                                        | 10                                                   | 2.7%  | 22                                | 6.5%  |
| Enrolled in Bachelor's Degree                  | 9                                                    | 2.4%  | 2                                 | 0.6%  |
| Child Development Associate (CDA)              |                                                      |       |                                   |       |
| CDA                                            | 66                                                   | 17.6% | 137                               | 40.8% |
| No Credential                                  |                                                      |       |                                   |       |
| No ECE Credential                              | 0                                                    | 0.0%  | 77                                | 22.9% |
| No ECE Credential Enrolled in a Degree Program | 0                                                    | 0.0%  | 47                                | 14.0% |
| TOTAL                                          | 375                                                  |       | 336                               |       |

Source: Arizona Head Start. (2013). [Head start program information reports.] Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

<sup>1</sup>Phoenix Area data include the following Head Start Grantees: Chicanos Por La Causa, Southwest Human Development, City of Phoenix, and Crisis Nursery, Inc.



There are a number of programs in or close to the First Things First Central Phoenix Region offering programs in Early Childhood Education. There are also a number of online programs offered by colleges in Arizona.

### ECE Professional Development Programs, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

| COLLEGE OR INSTITUTION        | DEGREE                                                       | DEGREE NAME                                                             | LOCATION                                     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Maricopa Community Colleges   | Child and Family Professional Development                    | Academic Certificate                                                    | Central Phoenix                              |
| Maricopa Community Colleges   | Child Development Associate Preparation                      | Certificate of Completion                                               | Central Phoenix                              |
| Maricopa Community Colleges   | Child and Family Organizations Management and Administration | Certificate of Completion                                               | Central Phoenix                              |
| Phoenix College               | Courses and Easy Transfer                                    | Early Childhood Education                                               | Central Phoenix and Online                   |
| Arizona State University      | M.Ed.                                                        | Curriculum and Instruction – Concentration in Early Childhood Education | Central Phoenix and Online                   |
|                               | B.A.Ed.                                                      | Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education         | Central Phoenix                              |
| Childcare Education Institute | C.D.A. Certificate                                           | Child Development Associate                                             | Online                                       |
| Northern Arizona University   | B.A.S.<br>B.S. Ed.<br>M.Ed.                                  | Early Childhood Education                                               | Online<br>Flagstaff<br>Flagstaff             |
| Prescott College              | B.A.                                                         | Early Childhood Education                                               | Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ |
|                               | B.A.                                                         | Early Childhood Special Education                                       | Online/Locally with one trip to Prescott, AZ |
| Rio Salado College            | Certificate                                                  | Early Childhood Education                                               | Online                                       |
|                               | A.A.S.                                                       | Early Childhood Education                                               | Online                                       |
|                               | A.A.S.                                                       | Early Learning and Development                                          | Online                                       |
|                               | A.A.S.                                                       | Early Childhood Administration and Management                           | Online                                       |
|                               | A.T.P.                                                       | Early Childhood Teacher Education                                       | Online                                       |
| University of Phoenix         | M.Ed.                                                        | Early Childhood Education                                               | Online                                       |

Source: Applied Survey Research. (2014). College or institution website searches. Watsonville, CA.





## Parent Knowledge of Child Development

### Why It Is Important

Parents provide the emotional and physical support that children need to succeed in school and life. Having a basic understanding of child development allows parents to provide the right kind of support at the right time.<sup>44</sup> The Arizona Parent Kit is offered to families statewide, including new parents in hospitals. It includes instructional DVDs, resource guides, helpline information, and a baby book to inform and empower new parents.

**"IT'S HARD TO REACH ALL THE VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHO NEED SUPPORT** in this region, so we are starting a train the trainers program for mothers about early childhood development, so that mothers can be trained to offer other mothers support in their own homes. Maybe once the mothers see that they are really smart and capable, they will be able to get more education, and expand into better jobs."

- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Provides funding to the ***Southwest Human Development*** which provides in-home visitation support and parenting education to help parents of children birth through 5 reduce stress, enhance family functioning, promote healthy child development, and engage in positive parent-child interactions.
- ***New Directions Institute*** offers parents and caregivers workshops on child development and school readiness.
- ***Father Matters*** offers monthly programs and workshops, including Fathers Mentoring Fathers, Teen Fatherhood, Financial Literacy, and Court and Custody. The organization also offers a weekly parenting class called "Parenting Across Cultures" that focuses on strengthening multi-ethnic families and communities.
- ***Friendly House*** provides in-home training and instruction in child care, behavior management, child development, household management and non-violent parent/child interactions. It also provides some in-home counseling for individuals and families, and in-office crisis counseling.

---

<sup>44</sup>The Child Development Institute. (2010). Home Page. In *Child Development Institute*. Retrieved from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com>

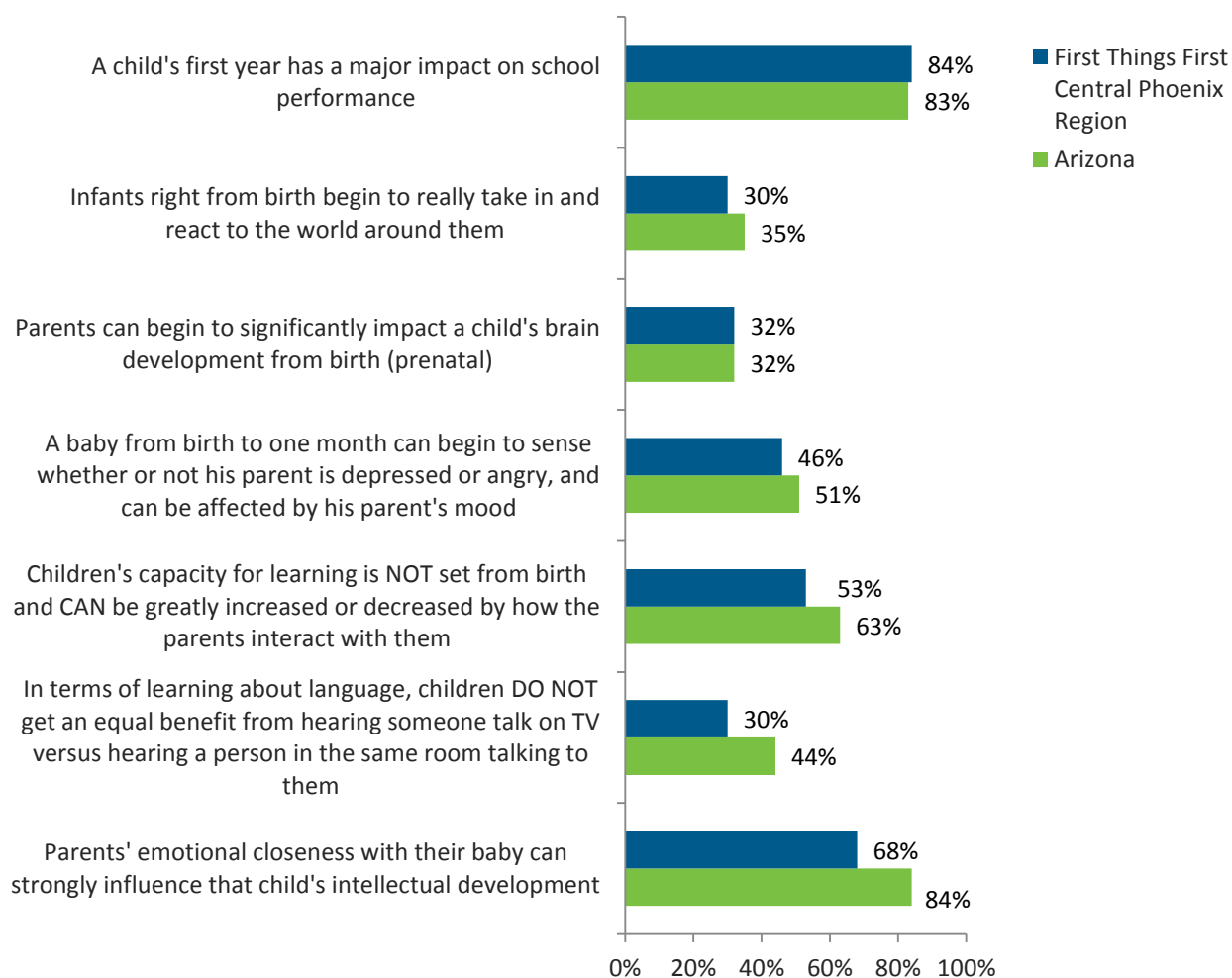


- **Catholic Charities'** services for families include counseling on a variety of topics, including parenting and family conflict.
- **Amigos Center**, a satellite program of the Wesley Community Center, offers child development programs for local residents.

## What the Data Tell Us

Eighty-four percent of First Things First Central Phoenix parent and caregiver respondents in 2012 understood that a child's first year has a major impact on school performance. Sixty-eight percent of parents reported that parent's emotional closeness with their baby can strongly influence their child's intellectual development; lower than the state average of 84%. Thirty percent of parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, and 44% in the state overall, correctly understood that in terms of learning a language, children benefit more from hearing a person talk than from hearing someone talk on TV.

### Parent Understanding of Child's Cognitive Development, 2012



n=202

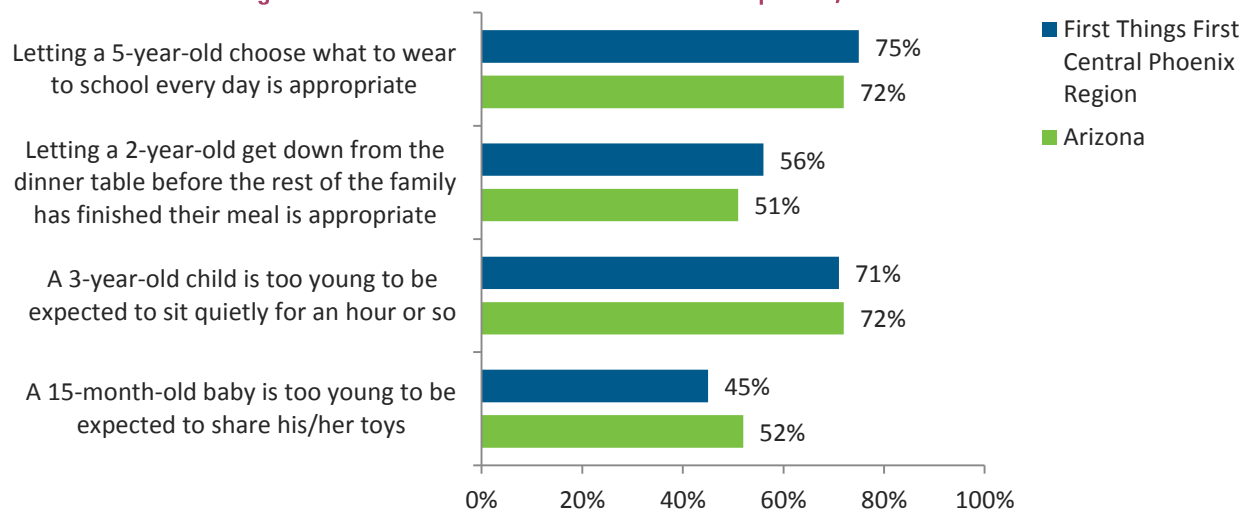
Source: First Things First. (2014). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.



Roughly half (45%) of parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region knew a 15-month-old was too young to be expected to share their toys and 56% believed that it was appropriate to let a two year old get down from the table before other families members had finished their dinner. Yet, 71% of parents understood that a 3-year-old was too young to be expected to sit quietly for an hour or so.

### Parent Understanding of Child's Social and Emotional Development, 2012



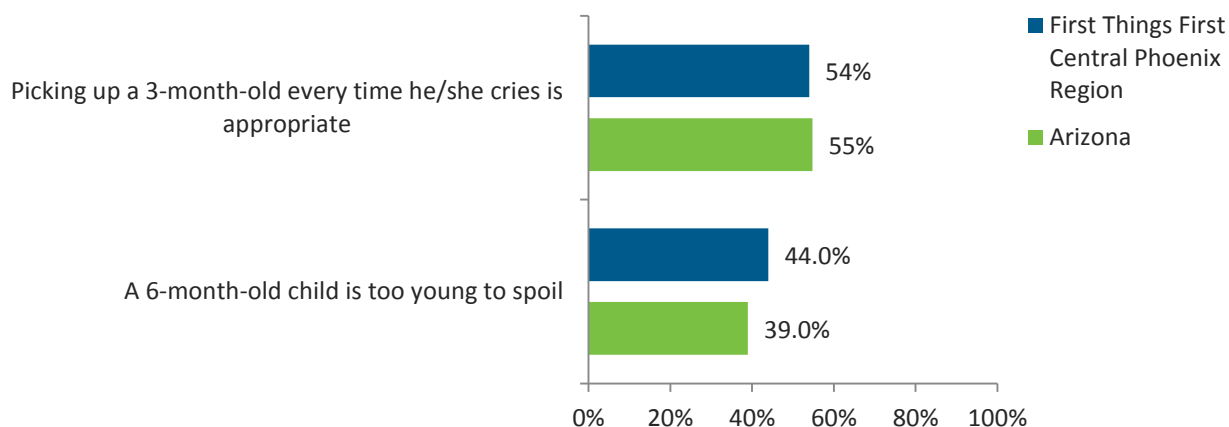
n=202

Source: First Things First. (2014). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.

Family and Community Survey data suggest local parents require additional knowledge related to several social and emotional development areas. These topics included bed time routines for a one-year-old child and that it's appropriate to pick up a three-month old every time he/she cries.

### Parents Who Accurately Responded to Questions Regarding Their Child's Social and Emotional, 2012 Development



n=202

Source: First Things First. (2014). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Responses shown are the percent of parents who accurately identified that the given statement was true or appropriate.



## Special Needs

---

### Children with Disabilities: Identification and Services

#### Why It Is Important

Early identification of children with special needs helps ensure these children get the support and opportunities they need to achieve success in school and in the community.<sup>45</sup> Developmental screenings including oral, vision, cognitive, and auditory screenings are an important practice to ensure children's optimal growth, setting them up for success by identifying early on when services are needed.

The Comprehensive System of Personnel Development unit supports all Arizona school districts and charter schools with teacher recruitment, retention, and professional development for improving the knowledge, skills, and services of staff to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

The Arizona State Performance Plan is dedicated to improving achievement for students with disabilities and assisting schools in complying with indicators like preschool placements and outcomes.

On July 1, 2013, Raising Special Kids and the ADE Parent Information Network (PIN) merged their parent training activities to create a "one-stop shop" for parents to increase their knowledge and skills for participation and decision-making in special education. The resources formerly provided by the PIN, including documents, trainings, and the lending library, are now available through Raising Special Kids. The program serves every county in Arizona by providing essential information to parents to be active participants in all areas of their child's special education (free resources, trainings, workshops, and consultations).

State budget cuts have led to dramatic reductions or complete eliminations in behavioral health services (also known as mental health services). Arizona cut funding to mental health services by more than \$57 million between 2009 and 2010, reducing or cutting services for about 14,000 people.<sup>46</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup> Steele, M.M. (2004). Making the case for early identification and intervention for young children at risk for learning disabilities. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. 32(2), 75-79.

<sup>46</sup> Wyatt, K. (2011, March 9). State budget cuts decimate mental health services. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from <http://www.washingtonpost.com>



## Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds ***EAR Arizona*** which provides children with developmental, oral, vision, and/or hearing screening and referrals for follow-up services. This program increases children's access to health care and identifies potential learning problems early on.
  - Funds ***Southwest Human Development*** which provides consultation and training to child care providers about how to best meet the needs of children with special needs in their early care and education settings. The program promotes the inclusion of special needs children in early education activities. This program also provides coaching, group activities, and services to the parents of children with special needs.
  - Funds mental health consultation for teachers and caregivers and helps child care staff and early childhood programs to support the social-emotional development of young children.
- ***Arizona Literacy and Learning Center*** offers a variety of literacy, speech, reading, and auditory services for children who have literacy/dyslexia and other language-based disorders. Children are given screenings and matched with programs meeting their needs in an effort to allow them to meet their potential.
- ***Maricopa Integrated Health System South Central Family Learning Center*** strengthens families of young children by providing locally-based information and instruction on health and child development issues.
- ***The Foundation for Blind Children*** offers a wide range of support to visually impaired children and their families in Arizona. The Foundation's services include information, education, and support for infants birth through three, recreational activities, family support groups, shared activities for parents and children, advocacy in schools and with social service providers, and more.
- ***Phoenix Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation*** offers services to help restore sight and/or hearing to those in need, but who are lacking assistance from another agency. Visual and hearing screenings are held through schools and health fairs and equipment is provided to preschoolers, kindergartners, and seniors at no cost.
- ***VALLEYLIFE*** offers a variety of programs for children and adults with special needs in an effort to help them lead lives filled with choices, independence, and dignity. Programs include, but are not limited to, residential housing assistance, adult day centers, vocational training, and in-home support for those seeking assistance in caring for a loved one.



## What the Data Tell Us

While there were a limited number of audiologists (5) in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, there were 86 speech language assistants and 217 speech language pathologists in the area.

### Speech Language and Hearing Service Providers, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

| TYPE OF PROVIDER             | NUMBER OF PROVIDERS |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Audiologists                 | 5                   |
| Speech Language Assistant    | 86                  |
| Speech Language Pathologists | 217                 |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2014). [Provider databases]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

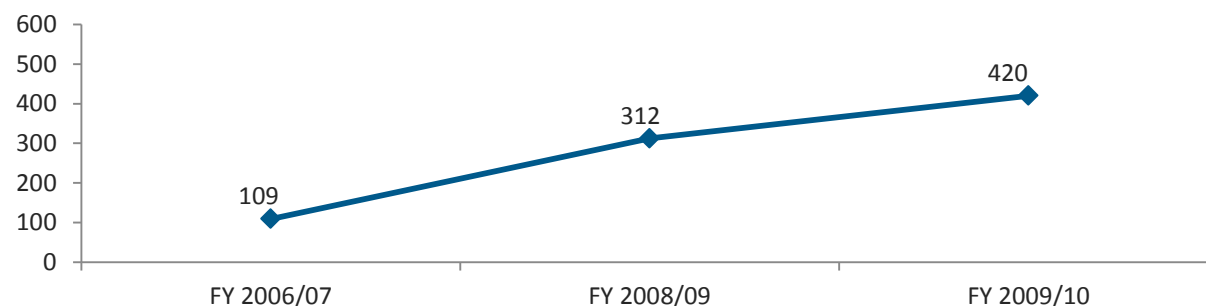
Note: Data based on number of providers with a license that are registered with a zip code in the Central Phoenix Region.

The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) provides early intervention and interagency support to toddlers and infants who may be experiencing developmental delays or disabilities. AzEIP provides Early Intervention services to children birth to three, using a team-based approach. The team's focus is on collaborative coaching of families as the primary intervention strategy. The family and team work together to implement goals that achieve important functional outcomes in natural environments.

State funding for early intervention services was eliminated effective November 1, 2010 and federal stimulus was used to backfill state funding cuts. As a result, families must share some cost in order to receive services, a practice which may deter many from obtaining services until children turn three years old, when the local school districts assume responsibility for services for children with disabilities.

There were 420 children receiving AzEIP services in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2009/10, up from 109 children in 2006/07.

### Children Receiving Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) Services, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Arizona early intervention program (AzEIP) Services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

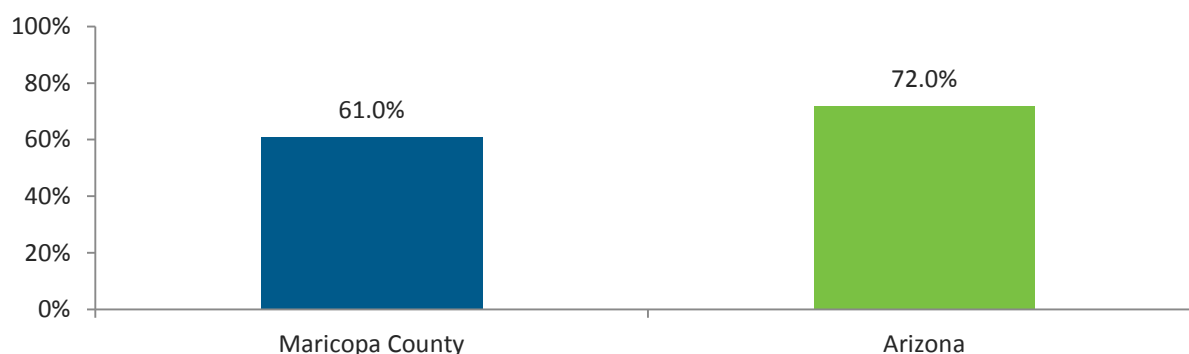
Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region. See Methodology for list of zip codes.



A component of the Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) services for children with special needs is the development of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) within 45 days of referral to AzEIP. Sixty-one percent of infants and toddlers in Maricopa County with IFSPs received services within 45 days of referral, which is lower than Arizona at 72% in 2009/10.

### Infants and Toddlers with IFSPs who Received an Evaluation Assessment and IFSP Within 45 Days of Referral, 2009/2010



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (n.d.). Early Intervention Program Reports. Retrieved 2010 from <https://www.azdes.gov/appreports.aspx>.

Note: 2009 data are cases serviced between 04/01/2009 and 06/30/2010.

Note: Data are most recent year available.

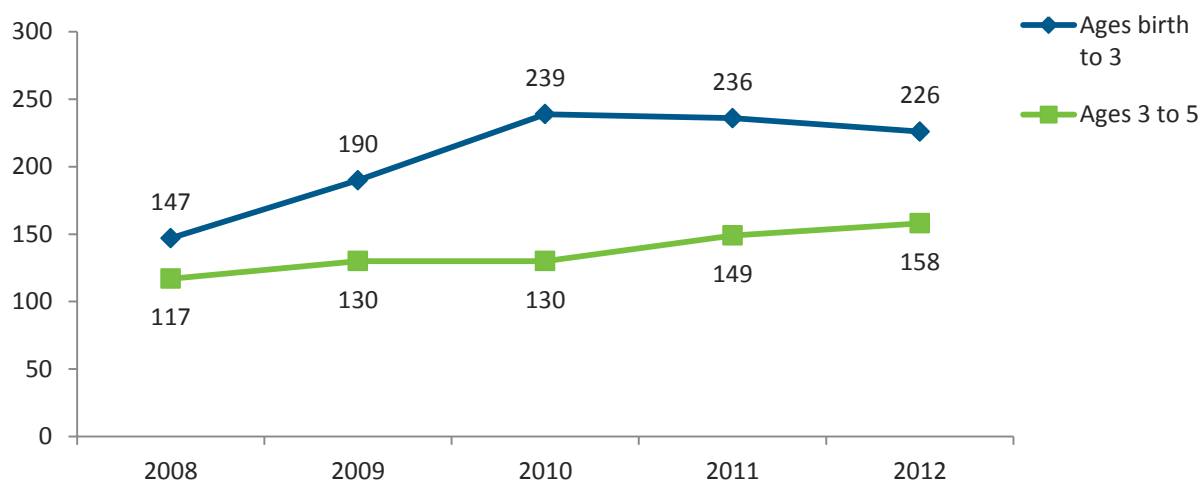
Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) is a department for children under the age of six who may be experiencing developmental delays (including epilepsy, autism, cerebral palsy or cognitive intellectual disability), or adults who were diagnosed under the age of 18. DDD provides services and programs to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities and coordinates services and resources through a central administrative office.

For children in foster care, there is a program called the DDD Foster Care program. The DDD Foster Care program is for children in foster care, ages 0 to 18 years, who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability. Developmental disabilities are characterized as having one or a component of the four primary disabilities: Mental Retardation, Epilepsy, Autism, or Cerebral Palsy. The data provided below does not include data from the DDD Foster Care program.

Since 2008, there have been more children under three years old receiving services from DDD as compared to children 3 to 5. In 2012, there were 226 children under three years of age as compared to 158 children 3 to 5 receiving DDD services. A five year trend showed the total number of children under age 6 served through DDD increased from 264 in 2008 to 384 in 2012.



## Children Receiving Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2012). [Children receiving division of developmental disabilities services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Note: Children are eligible for DDD services if they are considered at risk for epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cognitive disability, or autism.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

There were 3,334 students identified and receiving special education services in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2013.

## Students Identified and Receiving Special Education, First Things First Central Phoenix Region School Districts

|                               | 2010   |         | 2011   |         | 2012   |         | 2013   |         |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
|                               | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Alhambra Elementary District  | 1,037  | 9.0%    | 995    | 9.0%    | 1,011  | 9.0%    | 1,006  | 8.7%    |
| Balsz Elementary District     | 231    | 9.7%    | 228    | 9.9%    | 226    | 10.0%   | 216    | 9.8%    |
| Creighton Elementary District | 711    | 12.4%   | 637    | 12.0%   | 661    | 12.4%   | 608    | 11.3%   |
| Madison Elementary District   | 200    | 4.2%    | 466    | 9.6%    | 449    | 9.0%    | 366    | 7.4%    |
| Osborn Elementary District    | 414    | 15.0%   | 388    | 15.2%   | 356    | 14.6%   | 412    | 16.6%   |
| Phoenix Elementary District   | 672    | 10.8%   | 643    | 10.4%   | 676    | 10.6%   | 644    | 10.5%   |
| Wilson Elementary District    | 93     | 9.6%    | 74     | 8.3%    | 90     | 8.8%    | 82     | 8.6%    |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). [Special education]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.





## Education

Children's success in school is improved by a combination of promoting physical and mental health, increasing literacy, and enhancing social and emotional skills. Typically, children who do well in school have early literacy skills and higher social and emotional skills at entry to kindergarten. However, Arizona students scored below the national average on every subject at every grade level tested, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).<sup>47</sup>

### School Enrollment

#### Why It Is Important

School enrollment data are used to determine school funding and to plan for services and programs for students.

#### What the Data Tell Us

The First Things First Central Phoenix Region is composed of seven public school districts. As of October 1, 2013 the seven districts served a total of 41,621 students. Of those, 1,054 were preschool children and 5,002 were kindergarteners.

#### School Enrollment, First Things First Central Phoenix School Districts, 2013/2014 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                                        | PRESCHOOL    | KINDERGARTEN | DISTRICT TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Alhambra Elementary District                           | 232          | 1,701        | 14,271         |
| Balsz Elementary District                              | 0            | 350          | 2,717          |
| Creighton Elementary District                          | 91           | 851          | 6,660          |
| Madison Elementary District                            | 308          | 628          | 6,136          |
| Osborn Elementary District                             | 51           | 391          | 2,978          |
| Phoenix Elementary District                            | 372          | 909          | 7,581          |
| Wilson Elementary District                             | 0            | 172          | 1,278          |
| <b>First Things First Central Phoenix Region Total</b> | <b>1,054</b> | <b>5,002</b> | <b>41,621</b>  |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). School enrollment by district. Retrieved from <http://www10.ade.az.us>.

Note: Preschool enrollment includes only students attending preschools associated with public school districts.

<sup>47</sup> Arizona Directions. (2012). Arizona indicators. Retrieved from [Arizonaindicators.org](http://Arizonaindicators.org)



There were 29 charter schools serving over 8,000 children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2013.

### Total Enrollment, First Things First Central Phoenix Region Charter Schools

|                                               | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Academy of Excellence                         | 95    | 104   | 86    |
| All Aboard Charter School                     | 114   | 108   | 108   |
| AmeriSchools Academy - Camelback              | 159   | 163   | 142   |
| AmeriSchools Academy North                    | NA    | 202   | 240   |
| Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix       | NA    | NA    | 449   |
| Arizona School for the Arts                   | 216   | 224   | 224   |
| Arizona Virtual Academy                       | 2,132 | 2,296 | 2,307 |
| Bennett Academy                               | 113   | 123   | 160   |
| Career Success Schools - Sage Campus          | 158   | 167   | 134   |
| Empower College Prep                          | NA    | NA    | 75    |
| Great Hearts Academies - Archway Chandler     | NA    | 506   | 503   |
| Great Hearts Academies - Archway Scottsdale   | NA    | 384   | 397   |
| Great Hearts Academies - Archway Trivium      | NA    | 338   | 428   |
| Great Hearts Academies - Archway Veritas      | NA    | 515   | 510   |
| Great Hearts Academies - Teleos Prep          | 195   | 178   | 191   |
| Great Hearts Academies - Trivium Prep         | NA    | 45    | 65    |
| Great Hearts Academies - Veritas Prep         | 66    | 72    | 149   |
| Humanities and Sciences Academy Arizona       | 25    | NA    | NA    |
| Imagine Camelback Middle                      | 61    | 38    | 57    |
| Khalsa Montessori Elementary Schools-Phoenix  | 164   | 175   | 169   |
| Great Hearts Academies- Maryvale Prep         | NA    | NA    | 139   |
| Midtown Primary School                        | 105   | 98    | 110   |
| New World Educational Center                  | 157   | 118   | 117   |
| Great Hearts Academies - North Phoenix Prep   | NA    | NA    | 52    |
| Pan-American Elementary Charter               | 335   | 367   | 517   |
| Phoenix Advantage Charter School              | 437   | 386   | 380   |
| Polytechnic Elementary School                 | 289   | NA    | NA    |
| Sonoran Science Academy - Phoenix             | 172   | 224   | 202   |
| Sonoran Science Academy – Phoenix Metro       | 57    | 107   | 110   |
| StarShine Academy                             | 56    | 54    | 121   |
| Summit Elementary                             | 223   | 475   | NA    |
| Tertulia Pre-College Community Primary Campus | 128   | NA    | NA    |



## Total Enrollment, First Things First Central Phoenix Region Charter Schools (Cont.)

|                                   | 2011         | 2012         | 2013         |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| University Public School Phoenix  | 300          | NA           | NA           |
| Villa Montessori - Phoenix Campus | 392          | 391          | 388          |
| <b>Total Students</b>             | <b>6,149</b> | <b>7,858</b> | <b>8,530</b> |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). [ADE Multidata Database]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.  
 Note: The schools listed above are located within the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

## School Readiness

### Why It Is Important

Children who have early learning skills as they enter kindergarten perform better in school, are more likely to graduate with a high school diploma, and are more successful in their careers, and are less likely to be involved in crime and drugs.<sup>48</sup> A study in high needs schools showed that, of children who were ready for kindergarten, 62% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Of children who weren't ready for kindergarten, only 6% of them performed well on standardized tests at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Typically, children will not make up the learning gap that they started off with when they entered kindergarten.<sup>49</sup>

**"FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN TO BE SCHOOL READY,**  
 we must first address the issue of poverty and adverse childhood experiences, to reduce  
 the corrosive effects of those conditions on childhood development."

*- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

In Arizona, children's literacy and reading skills, between kindergarten and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, are currently assessed by the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). While the DIBELS assessments only measure skills related to the letter knowledge component of kindergarten readiness, they provide some picture of how well children are prepared when beginning school.

First Things First (FTF) is committed to understanding and improving children's health and development from birth to the beginning of kindergarten. The adoption of our 10 School Readiness

<sup>48</sup> Rolnick, A., & Grunewald, R. (2003). Early childhood development: Economic development with a high public return. *The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis*. Retrieved from [https://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications\\_papers/pub\\_display.cfm?id=3832&](https://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/pub_display.cfm?id=3832&)

<sup>49</sup> Applied Survey Research. (2008). *Does readiness matter: How kindergarten readiness translates into academic success*. San Jose, California.



Indicators that address health, development, and education for young children are explicitly designed to evaluate Arizona's progress on eliminating disparities in child outcomes and closing the opportunity and readiness gap. The first of these 10 indicators is a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) across the five domains of learning. A KEA provides families, teachers, and schools with a holistic look at what children know and are able to do.

Over the past year, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), working in collaboration with the state Board of Education, First Things First, and the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust have led efforts to move forward on developing and implementing a KEA, which once adopted in Arizona, will be called the Kindergarten Development Inventory (KDI). In FY 2015, initial pilot tests in a small number of schools will begin with the draft assessment. More extensive field testing is anticipated in FY 2016, as well as convening state experts to review assessment materials, and conducting focus groups and other in-depth forums with parents, teachers, administrators and other constituencies to explain and develop support for the assessments. Arizona will then conduct a formal procurement process to select a common KDI instrument and develop a plan to phase in the assessment and make it available statewide.

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:*
  - Funds *Reach Out and Read* which helps pediatricians engage parents and young children in early literacy activities and provide books to distribute to families with young children.
- *Leaps and Bounds* is a kindergarten readiness program that supports parents of children three through five in acting as their child's first teacher. Services include a "World as a Classroom" workshop series for parents, designed to promote their child's brain development through home-based activities.
- *Read On Arizona* is a partnership of agencies, organizations, and community stakeholders across the state that is committed to creating a continuum of services to improve language and literacy outcomes for children birth through eight years old. Read On Arizona has networks in Phoenix and Greater Phoenix.

### What the Data Tell Us

Data regarding school readiness were not available for the First Things First Central Phoenix Region. School districts in the region were unable to provide data in a consistent format.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Test Scores

### Why It Is Important

One of the most powerful indicators of later academic success is a child's reading level at the end of third grade. In third grade it is expected that children will show evidence of reading comprehension and be able to read unfamiliar words through various strategies. Reading proficiency at this point prepares the student for fourth grade, where the focus of reading instruction changes from "learning to read" to "reading to learn."<sup>50</sup> The Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) is the tool used to measure third grade academic proficiency in Arizona.

#### **"WE COMPARED HEAD START CHILDREN WITH NON HEAD START CHILDREN**

in one of our school districts by looking at 3rd grade AIMS test scores.

The Head Start kids were doing better in math and reading—you can still see the benefits of Head Start at 3rd grade."

*- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,  
City of Phoenix Human Services Department, Education Division*

### What the Data Tell Us

Eighty-five percent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Madison Elementary District were meeting or exceeding the standard for AIMS reading in 2013. These scores were much higher than students' scores at Balsz, Creighton, and Osborn Elementary Districts where over 40% of students were below standards in reading.

---

<sup>50</sup> Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2010). Early warning! Why reading by the end of third grade matters. Retrieved from <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>



### AIMS Reading: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | 2009           |                 | 2010           |                 | 2011           |                 | 2012           |                 | 2013           |                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                               | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing |
| Alhambra Elementary District  | 14,538         | 72%             | 13,944         | 74%             | 14,245         | 77%             | 14,420         | 70%             | 14,271         | 70%             |
| Balsz Elementary District     | 2,822          | 51%             | 2,752          | 54%             | 2,754          | 63%             | 2,682          | 57%             | 2,717          | 58%             |
| Creighton Elementary District | 7,204          | 58%             | 6,653          | 63%             | 6,610          | 67%             | 6,693          | 59%             | 6,660          | 59%             |
| Madison Elementary District   | 5,826          | 80%             | 5,735          | 83%             | 6,130          | 83%             | 6,241          | 85%             | 6,136          | 85%             |
| Osborn Elementary District    | 3,353          | 54%             | 3,114          | 60%             | 3,037          | 60%             | 3,025          | 56%             | 2,978          | 59%             |
| Phoenix Elementary District   | 7,340          | 54%             | 7,105          | 59%             | 7,724          | 59%             | 7,462          | 63%             | 7,581          | 64%             |
| Wilson Elementary District    | 1,240          | 67%             | 1,129          | 60%             | 1,391          | 68%             | 1,181          | 64%             | 1,278          | 70%             |
| Arizona                       | 1,086,047      | 72%             | 1,071,887      | 73%             | 1,083,348      | 76%             | 1,096,040      | 75%             | 1,102,319      | 75%             |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *School report cards*. Retrieved from <http://www.ade.state.az.us>.

Note: The percent passing are those that met or exceeded the standard.



Similar to the AIMS 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading scores, students at Madison Elementary District scored higher on AIMS math than students in the other six districts. From 2009 to 2013, the AIMS math scores have declined in each of the school districts in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

### AIMS Math: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Students Meeting or Exceeding the Standard

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | 2009           |                 | 2010           |                 | 2011           |                 | 2012           |                 | 2013           |                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|                               | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing | Total Enrolled | Percent Passing |
| Alhambra Elementary District  | 14,538         | 76%             | 13,944         | 68%             | 14,245         | 72%             | 14,420         | 66%             | 14,271         | 66%             |
| Balsz Elementary District     | 2,822          | 59%             | 2,752          | 54%             | 2,754          | 57%             | 2,682          | 59%             | 2,717          | 58%             |
| Creighton Elementary District | 7,204          | 63%             | 6,653          | 53%             | 6,610          | 60%             | 6,693          | 57%             | 6,660          | 54%             |
| Madison Elementary District   | 5,826          | 83%             | 5,735          | 79%             | 6,130          | 77%             | 6,241          | 78%             | 6,136          | 80%             |
| Osborn Elementary District    | 3,353          | 65%             | 3,114          | 56%             | 3,037          | 49%             | 3,025          | 51%             | 2,978          | 52%             |
| Phoenix Elementary District   | 7,340          | 55%             | 7,105          | 45%             | 7,724          | 44%             | 7,462          | 60%             | 7,581          | 53%             |
| Wilson Elementary District    | 1,240          | 67%             | 1,129          | 53%             | 1,391          | 62%             | 1,181          | 56%             | 1,278          | 63%             |
| Arizona                       | 1,086,047      | 73%             | 1,071,887      | 65%             | 1,083,348      | 68%             | 1,096,040      | 69%             | 1,102,319      | 68%             |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2014). *School report cards*. Retrieved from <http://www10.ade.az.gov>.

Note: The percent passing are those that met or exceeded the standard.



## Graduation Rate

### Why It Is Important

High school graduation is an important indicator of future economic and personal success. Youth who leave high school prior to graduation are more likely to experience lower earnings and unemployment.<sup>51</sup> Dropping out of high school may be a result of several risk factors including child abuse, substance abuse, unaddressed learning disabilities, mental health problems, pregnancy, homelessness, and poverty.<sup>52</sup>

There are differences in graduation rates by ethnicity in Arizona which may be due to language and cultural barriers, as well as higher poverty rates. It is important to identify the contributing factors to these low graduation rates to ensure greater success for all children.<sup>53</sup>

### What the Data Tell Us

In addition to a few small alternative and charter high schools, there are two primary high school districts serving the First Things First Central Phoenix Region. These two districts include Phoenix Union High School District and Scottsdale Unified District. Both districts consistently have had graduation rates above the state average. Still, nearly one quarter of students in Phoenix Union High School District did not graduate in 2012.

### Graduation Rate, First Things First Central Phoenix Region School Districts

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                    | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Phoenix Union High School District | 77.0% | 78.6% | 83.9% | 79.6% | 76.4% |
| Scottsdale Unified District        | 90.0% | 89.5% | 90.5% | 91.4% | 89.9% |
| Arizona                            | 74.9% | 76.1% | 75.4% | 77.9% | 76.7% |

Source: Arizona Department of Education. (2012). *Graduation rate*. Retrieved from <http://www10.ade.az.us>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: Data for Scottsdale Unified School District represents five high schools, but only one, Arcadia High School, falls within the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

<sup>51</sup> United States Department of Education. (n.d.). Promoting Educational Excellence for all Americans, Questions and Answers on No Child Left Behind. Retrieved 2012 from <http://www.ed.gov/>

<sup>52</sup> U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2010). Trends in the well-being of America's youth, 2000. Retrieved from <http://www.aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/00trends/EA1.pdf>

<sup>53</sup> Arizona Directions. (2012). *Arizona indicators*. Retrieved from [www.Arizonaindicators.org](http://www.Arizonaindicators.org)





## Educational Attainment

### Why It Is Important

Educational attainment is an important indicator of future economic success because those with at least a high school diploma have better employment opportunities. Limited education and employment can also impact other quality of life areas including access to health care and life expectancy. Low educational attainment is often associated with lower income or poverty, less access to good quality child care, and poorer health.

### Snapshot of Community Supports

- ***Chicanos Por la Causa*** provides assistance with getting a GED, vocational training, and workforce development.
- ***Valley of the Sun YMCA*** offers a number of youth development programs, including GED assistance and vocational training.
- ***Friendly House*** offers:
  - Free adult education services that include adult basic education and GED test preparation.
  - A TRiO/Educational Talent Search Program that supports kids in staying in school who might otherwise drop out of school. The program assists youth in getting their high school diplomas and enrolling in college. Services include mentoring, study skills assistance, cultural activities, and a one-week summer camp.
- ***The Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County (LVMC)*** offer free self-paced GED preparation online and at the Lynn Reed Center.
- ***Maricopa Center for Adolescent Parents*** offers free GED preparation classes for pregnant or parenting mothers between the ages of 16 and 21. The center also offers free child care and nutritious snacks.
- ***Arizona Call-A-Teen Youth Resources, Inc. (ACYR)*** offers an adult education/GED program designed to prepare adults to become more literate and meet their potential. The program offers a small participant to instructor ratio, coordination with employment-training programs, and a connection between education and “real life” situation planning.
- ***Phoenix Union High School District*** offers GED and graduation support throughout the community.

### What the Data Tell Us

Roughly half of residents ages 25 and older living in the Scottsdale Unified District area had a college degree or higher, while only 17% of individuals in the areas served by Phoenix Union High School District area had a college degree or higher, according to 2007-2011 estimates.



## Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Over, 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates

|                                    | < HIGH SCHOOL | HIGH SCHOOL | SOME COLLEGE | BACHELOR'S DEGREE | GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Phoenix Union High School District | 31.3%         | 26.0%       | 25.1%        | 11.2%             | 6.3%                            |
| Scottsdale Unified District        | 4.7%          | 15.4%       | 28.9%        | 30.6%             | 20.4%                           |
| Arizona                            | 14.8%         | 24.7%       | 34.1%        | 16.8%             | 9.6%                            |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Table S1501- Educational attainment, 2007-2011 5-year estimates. *American Community Survey*. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

Note: Data are based on School District area, for additional detail on Census and ACS data see Appendix A.

Note: Data presented represent all people living within the geographic region, not only those children and families enrolled in the district.

Note: Data for Scottsdale Unified School District represents five high schools, but only one, Arcadia High School, falls within the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

## Family Literacy

### Why It Is Important

When families read to their infants and preschool children, children learn crucial skills such as how to recognize letters, words, and sounds. Young children who have these early literacy skills are more successful later in school and life.<sup>54</sup> Other key activities such as playing games and exercising also help children learn and develop.

The national Reach Out and Read program promotes early literacy and school readiness by giving new books to children and educating parents about the importance of reading to children. Reach Out and Read Arizona was established in 2002 and is a coalition of 188 sites serving 103,711 of Arizona's children each year. Reach Out and Read Arizona trains medical providers to integrate literacy into well child visits by giving new books to children between the ages of 6 months through 5 years. Annually, sites give over 193,176 new, developmentally appropriate books to families.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>54</sup> Levy, B. A., Gong, Z., Hessels, S., Evans, M. A., & Jared, D. (2006). Understanding print: Early reading development and the contributions of home literacy experiences. *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, 93(1), 63-93.

<sup>55</sup> Reach Out and Read Arizona Coalition. (2013). About reach out and read Arizona. Retrieved from <http://www.roraz.org/about-roraz.asp>



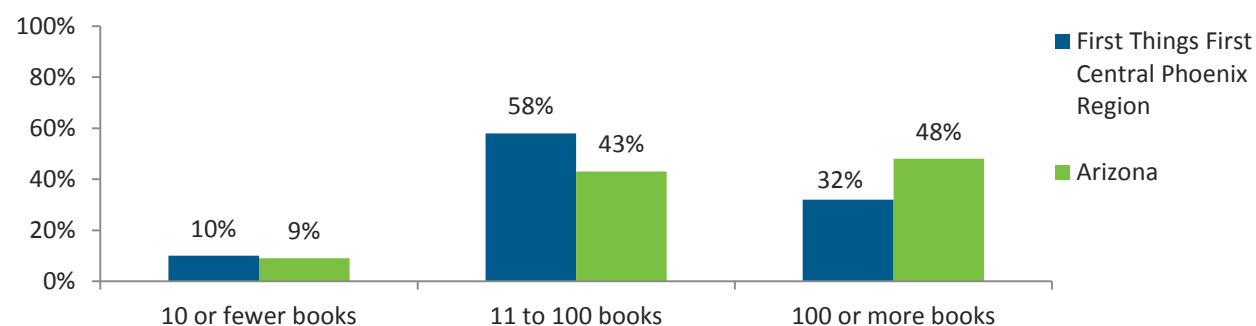
## Snapshot of Community Assets

- **Central Phoenix Public Libraries** offer reading groups, story times and activities that encourage reading and early literacy skills to families and children of all ages. There are five libraries serving the First Things First Central Phoenix Region including: Burton Barr Public Library, Century Library, Harmon Library, Saguaro Library, and Yucca Library. Yucca Library offers a bilingual family story time.
- **Reach Out and Read** prepares Phoenix's youngest children to succeed in school by partnering with doctors to prescribe books and encouraging family reading. Medical providers are trained to stress the importance of literacy into child care by giving new books to children sixth months to five years.
- **Read On Arizona** is a partnership of agencies, organizations, and community stakeholders across the state that are committed to creating a continuum of services to improve language and literacy outcomes for children birth through eight. Read On Arizona has networks in Phoenix and Greater Phoenix.

## What the Data Tell Us

Research in 40 countries showed that children in homes with more than 100 children's books performed much better in reading achievement at 4th grade than did children with 10 or fewer books.<sup>56</sup> Fewer parents reported having fewer books in the region compared to the state. Ten percent of parent respondents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported having 10 or fewer books in their home, compared to 9% in the state as a whole. About one-third (32%) of parents in the region reported having 100 or more books in the home, lower than the state (48%).

### How Many Children's Books – Including Library and E-books – Do You Have Right Now in Your Home?



n=202

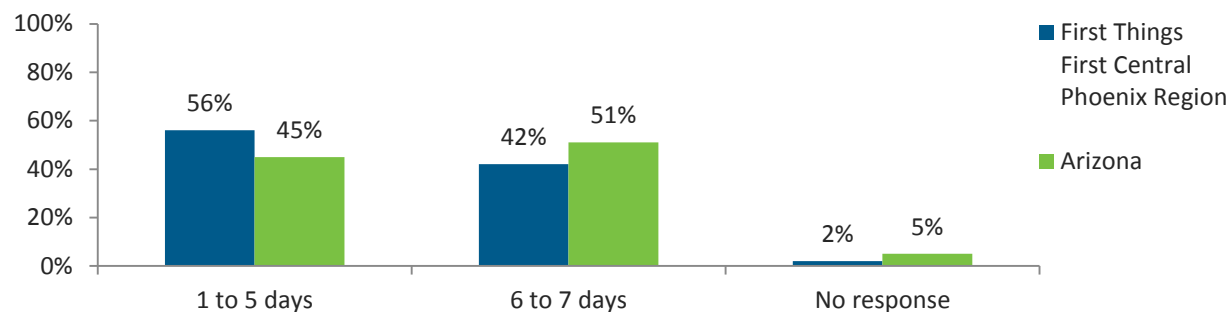
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

<sup>56</sup> Center for the Improvement of Early Reading Achievement. (1998). Improving the Reading Achievement of America's Children. University of Michigan.



Parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported engaging their child in literacy related activities less often than parents in the state as a whole in 2012. Forty-two percent of parents in region reported reading to their child six to seven days in the past week, lower than the state (51%).

### During the Past Week, How Many Days Did You or Other Family Members Read Stories to Your Child/Children? 2012

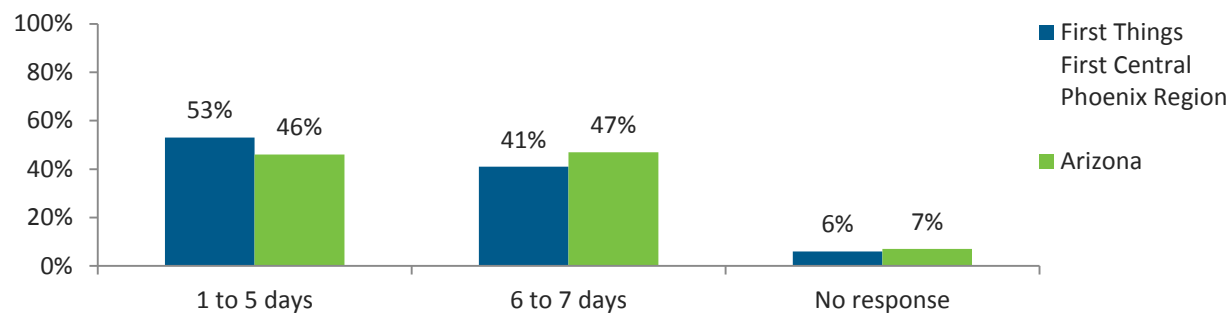


n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Less than half (41%) of parents in the region reported that their child/children scribbled, pretended to draw, or drew with them or another family member six to seven days in the past week in 2012.

### During the Past Week, How Many Days Did Your Child/Children Scribble, Pretend to Draw, or Draw with You or Another Family Member? 2012



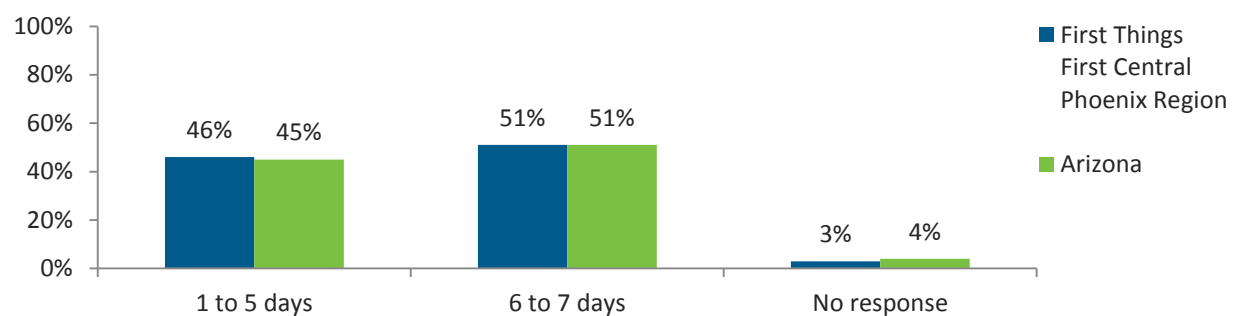
n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.



Fifty-one percent of parents in the region reported telling stories or singing songs with their child/children six to seven times in the past week in 2012.

### During the Past Week, How Many Days Did You or Another Family Member Tell Stories or Sing Songs to Your Child/Children? 2012



n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and community survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.



# FAMILY SUPPORTS

All parents need support. Having someone to rely on in a time of need improves the overall wellbeing of parents and children. At the same time, every family has strengths. We need to recognize and build on the capacity and resilience of our families, while helping provide them with the support needed to best care for their children.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

### Community Supports

- Family and Community Supports

### Social Services

- Child Abuse
- Foster Care
- Juvenile Justice
- Children of Incarcerated Parents



## Community Supports

---

### Family and Community Supports

#### Why It Is Important

Community ties with friends and relatives are a principal means by which people and households get supportive resources.

**"NOW WE ARE SEEING MORE INTENSITY -**  
more homelessness, more families staying with other families,  
more troubles with jobs and transportation, more children with autism,  
more domestic violence and child abuse, more grandparents raising children,  
it's more intensified."

- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation

#### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds classes on parenting, child development, and problem solving skills.
  - Funds the improvement, coordination, and access to family support services and programs.
  - Provides funding to the ***Southwest Human Development*** which offers a number of services to families including Healthy Families, Parenting Partners Plus, and Common Sense Parenting. They offer New Beginnings to support parents going through divorce as well as coordinated child support programs.
- ***Parents as Teachers*** is a home visiting program for pregnant women and families with children birth to 5. Its vision is that all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential. All prospective parents and parents with a child birth to 5 are eligible for the program.
- ***Maricopa County Parent Support Center*** offers voluntary services to parents and caregivers to help them address the stress of parenting.



**“THE FOSTER CARE CASELOAD IN ARIZONA HAS SEEN THE LARGEST GROWTH OF ANY STATE IN THE COUNTRY IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS.**

I believe what precipitated that growth are the reductions in safety net services such as subsidized childcare, health care for working families, and home visiting programs. There were many families that lost services very dramatically as of February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.”

- *Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

- **Nurse-Family Partnership** is a nurse home visiting program to aid women who are having their first child. The service is free to all who are eligible and provides a specially trained nurse to visit your home throughout your pregnancy and continue to visit until your child is two years old to help build and maintain a safe and nurturing home environment.
- **Fresh Start Women’s Resource Center** offers a low-cost, self-help resource center where women can receive help and mentorship on parenting, finances, and personal growth.
- **Parent Aide** is a contract program through DES/CPS intended for children who are in placement as a result of child abuse or neglect. Parent Aide seeks to monitor and improve parent-child relations through supervised visitations, parent skills training, the creation of parenting curriculums, and through progress reports.
- **Healthy Families** is an initiative to get parents and their children off to a healthy start by strengthening bonds between children birth through 5 and their family. Healthy Families has no income requirements and seeks to promote parent-child interaction and child development by stimulating positive family interaction, connecting families with medical providers, and linking families with community resources.

**“MORE AND MORE INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE WILLING TO ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES and do something. In the last ten years, we have seen increased rates of volunteerism and increased number of people donating money.**

*For big change though, we need to have structural policy level change.”*

- *Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank*

- **Maricopa County Parent Support Center** offers voluntary services to parents and caregivers to help them address the stress of parenting.
- **Arizona Department of Health Services** provides behavioral health and related services through an outpatient clinic in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.





- **Birth to Five Helpline** located in Phoenix is a toll-free call line offering free developmentally appropriate resources and information for parents of young children and their caregivers. This service includes, but is not limited to, topics related to health, child development, and nutrition.

***"IT'S AMAZING HOW HEAD START FAMILIES SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER, especially refugee families. They support each other in learning English, and how to connect their child to the school system. Families begin to understand the importance of education and of being advocates for their children and their families. Children's attendance gets better, parents become more engaged in the classroom and in parent teacher conferences."***

*- Patricia Nightingale, Deputy Human Services Director,  
City of Phoenix Human Services Department Education Division*

- **Good Fit Counseling Center** located in Phoenix is a counseling service for children birth through 5 and their families. Services include, but are not limited to, child and family counseling, play therapy, and developmental assessments, and may take place at the Good Fit Counseling Center or at your home.

***"ALL OF OUR FAMILIES HAVE ASSETS, SUCH AS LANGUAGE, history, music, culture, but the last few years, people are not recognizing their own assets as much, especially when they are losing jobs and can't provide the best housing, clothes or food for their children. They feel like they have less to offer. But we start with the belief that their value is what is inside of them."***

*- Dr. Darlene Little, Tanner Community Development Corporation*



## Social Services

---

### Child Abuse

#### Why It Is Important

Child abuse and neglect are found in families across the social and economic spectrum. Social isolation, financial stress, poverty, substance abuse, and domestic violence are all factors that can lead to adults abusing children.<sup>57</sup> Children who are victims of abuse or neglect experience higher rates of suicide, depression, substance abuse, difficulties in school, and other behavioral problems later in life, including a greater risk of mistreating their own children. The estimated average lifetime cost per victim of nonfatal child maltreatment is \$210,012 in 2010 dollars, including \$32,648 in childhood health care costs. It is therefore essential that communities work to prevent child abuse and neglect so as to end this cycle of abuse.<sup>58,59</sup>

**“THERE WAS A 34% INCREASE IN THE REPORTS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

from 2009-2013, during the same time child care subsidies were cut by 75%. Also during that time, foster care placements increased 45%. Clearly there is a direct relationship between families access to child care and child maltreatment. In Arizona infants and toddlers make up over one- third of all the 16,000 children in foster care today.”

- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona

#### What the Data Tell Us

The number of cases of child abuse and neglect in Maricopa County has fluctuated from year to year, partially due to budget changes for child welfare services. In fiscal year 2013, there were 1,066 substantiated cases of child abuse in Maricopa County, down considerably from approximately 2,000 in 2011. Neglect is consistently the leading type of child maltreatment.

---

<sup>57</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2004). *Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect*. Retrieved from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/pdfs/riskprotectivefactors.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Kolbo, J. R. (1996). Risk and resilience among children exposed to family violence. *Violence & Victims*, 11, 113-128

<sup>59</sup> Kolbo, J. R. (2008). Child abuse: The hidden bruises. *American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. Retrieved from [http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts\\_for\\_families/child\\_abuse\\_the\\_hidden\\_bruises](http://www.aacap.org/cs/root/facts_for_families/child_abuse_the_hidden_bruises)



### Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse/Neglect, Maricopa County

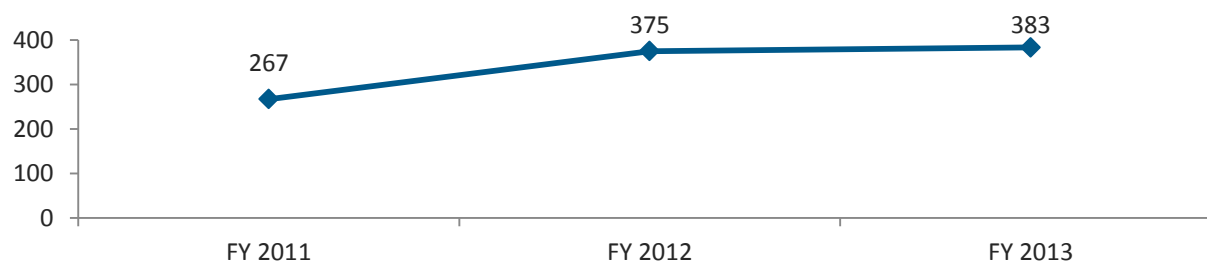
| TYPE OF MALTREATMENT | FY 2011          | FY 2012    | FY 2013      |
|----------------------|------------------|------------|--------------|
| Emotional Abuse      | <10              | 0          | 0            |
| Neglect              | 1,629            | 522        | 939          |
| Physical Abuse       | 372              | 70         | 104          |
| Sexual Abuse         | 67               | 25         | 23           |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>&lt;2,078</b> | <b>617</b> | <b>1,066</b> |

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2013). Child welfare report. Retrieved from <https://www.azdes.gov>.

Note: Fiscal year represents October 1st – September 30th.

There were 383 children removed from their homes by Child Protective Services in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2013, up from 267 children in 2011.

### Children Removed from Home by Child Protective Services (CPS), First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Child protective services]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are the combination of all zip codes in the region. See methodology for a list of zip codes.

## Foster Care

### Why It Is Important

Children who are victims of child abuse or neglect may be placed in foster care by the court. Foster care is care for children birth through 17 who are removed from their parents' or guardians' home and placed in a different setting such as a family foster care home, relatives' home, group residential home, or an institutional care facility. It is generally held that the child's best interests are served by being with their parents, and there is often an effort to address the issues at home so as to reunite the family.<sup>60</sup> Some children are placed into foster care because

<sup>60</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2010). Family preservation services. Retrieved from <http://www.childwelfare.gov/supporting/preservation/>



their parents were deported due to immigration laws. Immigrant victims of domestic violence are at particular risk of losing their children.<sup>61</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Hope and Future, Inc.*** offers summer camps for teens and preteens in the foster care system as well as mentoring programs, scholarships, and extracurricular opportunities for foster girls.
- ***Arizona's Children's Association*** provides foster care, adoption, behavioral health, and child abuse prevention programs for individuals with AHCCCS.
- ***Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation*** provides monetary assistance for activities, education, and other items/services in order to improve the quality of life for foster children in the state of Arizona.
- ***West Valley Child Crisis Center*** offers temporary shelter for children who are victims of child abuse or at-risk for abuse. They also offer counseling services and foster/adoption programs that include training, support, and licensing of prospective parents.
- ***Agape Adoption*** provides a number of services including child placement services for adoptive and foster families, as well as support and classes for both foster and birth families who may need assistance.
- ***Black Family and Child Services of Arizona*** provide training for foster parents and offers a foster-adopt program aimed at increasing the number of foster children who are formally adopted by their foster families.

### What the Data Tell Us

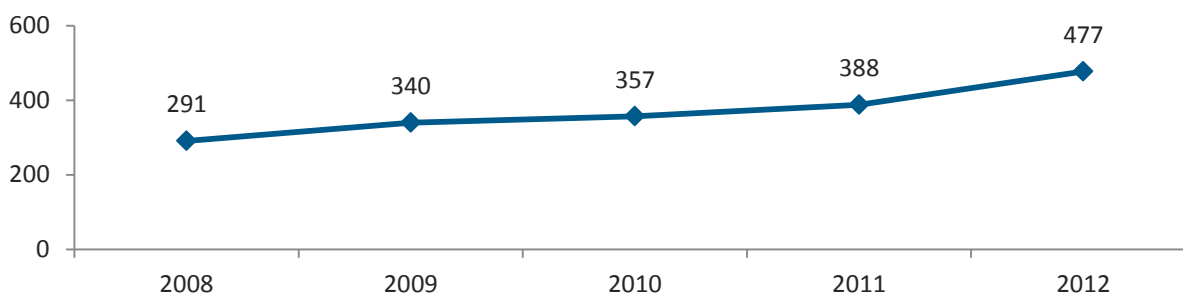
There were 477 children in foster care who entered care at the age of five or under in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, in 2012. This was a 64% increase from 2008.

---

<sup>61</sup> Applied Research Center. (2011). *Shattered families*. Retrieved from [www.arc.org/shatteredfamilies](http://www.arc.org/shatteredfamilies).



## Children in Foster Care that Entered Care Between the Ages of Birth Through 5, First Things First Central Phoenix Region



Source: Department of Economic Security. (2014). [Child protective services]. Unpublished data. Received from Arizona First Things First.

## Juvenile Justice

### Why It Is Important

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety, as it is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.<sup>62</sup> To reduce juvenile crime, it is important that the community promote youth assets and positive attitudes by providing opportunities for education, mentoring, employment, and leadership.

### What the Data Tell Us

Juvenile arrests steadily decreased between 2007 and 2011 in both the county and the state. The juvenile arrest rate of youth ages 8-17 in Maricopa County decreased from 46.4 per 1,000 to 36.6 per 1,000 between 2007 and 2011.

### Juvenile Arrests Ages 8 Through 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)

|                 | 2007   |      | 2008   |      | 2009   |      | 2010   |      | 2011   |      |
|-----------------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|--------|------|
|                 | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Maricopa County | 25,075 | 46.4 | 27,094 | 47.5 | 25,229 | 44.6 | 22,313 | 40.2 | 20,238 | 36.6 |
| Arizona         | 53,346 | 60.7 | 54,259 | 60.3 | 51,602 | 56.7 | 45,318 | 50.3 | 42,071 | 46.8 |

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from <http://kidscount.org>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Juvenile arrest rate is based on total juvenile arrests per 1,000; data does not specify severity or type of crime.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

<sup>62</sup> Noguera, P. (1995). Reducing and preventing youth violence: An analysis of causes and an assessment of successful programs. *Harvard Education Review*: Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Maricopa County also saw a decrease in the number of juvenile arrests for violent crime from 906 in 2007 to 608 in 2011.

### Juvenile Arrests for Violent Crimes Ages 8 Through 17 (Rate per 1,000 Youth)

|                        | 2007       |            | 2008       |            | 2009       |            | 2010       |            | 2011       |            |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                        | Number     | Rate       | Number     | Rate       | Number     | Rate       | Number     | Rate       | Number     | Rate       |
| <b>Maricopa County</b> | <b>906</b> | <b>1.7</b> | <b>959</b> | <b>1.8</b> | <b>746</b> | <b>1.4</b> | <b>672</b> | <b>1.2</b> | <b>608</b> | <b>1.1</b> |
| Arizona                | 1,604      | 1.8        | 1,630      | 1.8        | 1,355      | 1.5        | 1,245      | 1.4        | 1,082      | 1.2        |

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from <http://kidscount.org>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

The number of juvenile arrests for drug crimes for youth ages 8 to 17 went down slightly between 2007 and 2011 in Maricopa County.

### Juvenile Arrests for Drug Crimes Ages 8 Through 17

|                        | 2007         |            | 2008         |            | 2009         |            | 2010         |            | 2011         |            |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|                        | Number       | Rate       | Number       | Rate       | Number       | Rate       | Number       | Rate       | Number       | Rate       |
| <b>Maricopa County</b> | <b>2,383</b> | <b>4.4</b> | <b>2,370</b> | <b>4.4</b> | <b>2,285</b> | <b>4.1</b> | <b>2,444</b> | <b>4.4</b> | <b>2,214</b> | <b>4.0</b> |
| Arizona                | 5,456        | 6.2        | 5,440        | 6.1        | 5,507        | 6.2        | 5,417        | 6.0        | 5,109        | 5.7        |

Source: National Kids Count Program/Children's Action Alliance, Safety and Risky Behaviors. (2014). *Juvenile arrests*. Retrieved from <http://kidscount.org>.

Note: Rate per 1,000 youth ages 8 to 17.

Note: Juvenile arrest rate is based on total juvenile arrests per 1,000; data does not specify severity or type of crime.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

## Children of Incarcerated Parents

### Why It Is Important

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to experience poverty and household instability, especially due to the increased likelihood of single parent households or grandfamilies. These children are more likely to witness drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence and they are more likely to exhibit higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems than children whose caregivers have never been arrested. They are also more likely to later be incarcerated themselves if preventive steps are not taken.<sup>63</sup> It is estimated that more than 1.7 million children

<sup>63</sup> Nickel, J. Garland, C., and Kane, L. (2009). Children of incarcerated parents: An action plan for federal policymakers. *Council of State Governments Justice Center*. Retrieved from [http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children\\_Incarcerated\\_Parents\\_v8.pdf](http://www.thecrimereport.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Children_Incarcerated_Parents_v8.pdf)



are children of incarcerated parents in the United States. According to the Arizona Children's Association, almost 200,000 such children live in Arizona, which has one of the highest incarceration rates of any Western state.<sup>64</sup>

## What the Data Tell Us

Data on the number of children with incarcerated parents are limited. In 2007, the Pima Prevention Partnership did a comprehensive study of parents in the Arizona Prison and Jail system. Maricopa County hosted the majority of the state's prison population. Sixty-six percent of Arizona's children affected by parental incarceration lived in Maricopa County in 2007.

### Estimated Number of Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2007

|                                                                        | MARICOPA COUNTY | ARIZONA |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Percent of State Prison Population                                     | 65.5%           | 100.0%  |
| Number of Prisoners in each County of Residence                        | 25,503          | 40,777  |
| Number of Incarcerated in County Jails                                 | 9,200           | 15,972  |
| Number on Probation                                                    | 25,951          | 47,293  |
| Total Population of Children of Incarcerated Parents (Jail and Prison) | 58,995          | 93,245  |
| Total Population of Children Affected by Parental Incarceration        | 103,112         | 171,662 |

Source: Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). Arizona children of incarcerated parents report. *Arizona: Bill of Rights Project*. Retrieved from <http://thepartnership.us>.

More than 1 in 5 children whose parents are incarcerated in the state of Arizona are under age 4.

### Estimated Daily Number of Children of Arrested and Incarcerated Parents, 2007

| ARRESTS BY FACILITY               | NUMBER OF MINOR CHILDREN* | NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 4 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Correctional System</b>        |                           |                                       |
| Federal Prison System in Arizona  | 5,681                     | 1,250                                 |
| Arizona State Prison              | 68,731                    | 15,121                                |
| Arizona Correctional System Total | 95,699                    | 21,047                                |
| <b>Probation Department</b>       |                           |                                       |
| Federal Probation                 | 8,500                     | 1,870                                 |
| Arizona State Probation Total     | 80,398**                  | 17,688                                |

Source: The Pima Prevention Partnership. (2011). Arizona children of incarcerated parents report. *Arizona: Bill of Rights Project*. Retrieved from <http://thepartnership.us>.

\* On average, every inmate in Arizona has 1.7 children under the age of 18 years.

\*\* It is assumed that similar percentages of men and women in jail, on parole and probation are parents.

<sup>64</sup> Northern Arizona University. (2014). Unintended victims: A project for children of incarcerated parents and their caregivers. <http://nau.edu/SBS/CCJ/Children-Incarcerated-Parents/>



# HEALTH

Ensuring that children and youth are in good physical health provides an essential foundation for healthy development so that children can become successful, healthy, and thriving adults. It is critical that children have access to health care to ensure that they have a chance at obtaining optimum health.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

### Maternal and Child Health

- Prenatal Care
- Birth Characteristics
- Substance Abuse During Pregnancy
- Teen Births
- Immunizations

### Health Care

- Health Insurance
- Primary Care
- Oral Health Care

### Chronic Disease and Mortality

- Illness
- Asthma
- Obesity and Overweight
- Diabetes
- Leading Causes of Death





## Maternal and Child Health

### Prenatal Care

#### Why It Is Important

Prenatal care is comprehensive medical care for pregnant women, including screening and treatment for medical conditions and help for issues such as smoking, alcohol, and substance abuse that are linked with poor birth outcomes. Some research has shown that babies born to mothers who receive no prenatal care are three times more likely to be born at low birth weight, and five times more likely to die, than those whose mothers receive prenatal care.<sup>65</sup> Lack of prenatal care is often associated with lack of health insurance and other barriers to health care, including communication difficulties, lack of child care, and transportation obstacles.<sup>66</sup> Women are advised to seek prenatal care early in their pregnancy (in the first trimester) and to have effective, high quality prenatal care visits throughout the pregnancy.<sup>67</sup>

**“OVER HALF OF BIRTHS ARE TO FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY AND ON AHCCCS,  
and poverty is the largest risk factor for poor childhood outcomes”**

*- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

#### Snapshot of Community Assets

- *The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:*
  - Funds outreach and education to pregnant women and their families and links pregnant women to sources of prenatal care.
  - Funds voluntary in-home services for infants, children and their families, focusing on parenting skills, early physical and social development, literacy, health and nutrition. Families are also connected to resources to support their child’s health and early learning.

<sup>65</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau (n.d.) A Healthy start: Begin before baby’s born. Retrieved June 28, 2010 from <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/womeninfants/prenatal.htm>

<sup>66</sup> American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (2010). Universal maternity care. Retrieved from [http://www.acog.org/acog\\_districts/dist\\_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893](http://www.acog.org/acog_districts/dist_notice.cfm?recno=1&bulletin=2893)

<sup>67</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health. (2010). *Pregnancy: Prenatal checkups*. Retrieved from <https://www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy/you-are-pregnant/prenatal-care-tests.html#b>

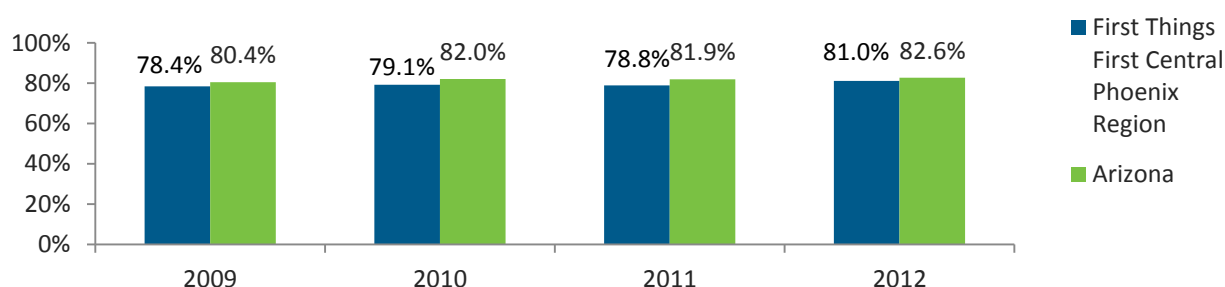


- **Centro de Salud Wesley Community Center** offers a variety of services to expectant mothers, including health screenings, pregnancy tests, prenatal care, diabetes management, and mental health counseling.
- **Baby Arizona** provides low-income pregnant women with health care before the AHCCCS application process is complete.
- **Life Choices Women's Clinic** offers services including, but not limited to, pregnancy tests, family planning, well woman exams, and ultrasounds to women and families seeking such services.
- **Adelante Healthcare** offers a variety of services to expecting mothers, including prenatal care, referrals, and classes on topics such as nutrition and gestational diabetes.
- **The International Rescue Committee's** services include prenatal and postnatal care for refugee women, as well as oral health care for pregnant and breastfeeding refugee mothers.
- **South Central Family Health Centers**, part of the Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), offer bilingual pregnancy and postpartum depression support groups for mothers.
- **Native Health** provides comprehensive prenatal care, including office visits, ultrasounds, and blood/lab work. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.

## What the Data Tell Us

A slightly smaller percentage of women in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region began prenatal care in the first three months of their pregnancy as compared to women in Arizona as a whole. In 2012, 81% of women in the region began prenatal care in the first trimester, compared to nearly 83% of all women in the state.

### Women Who Began Prenatal Care in First Trimester of Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received from Arizona First Things First.

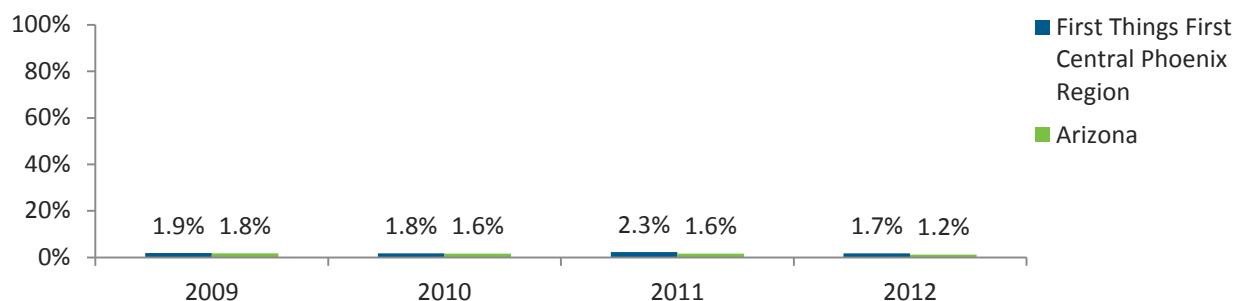
Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



A small percentage of women did not receive any prenatal care during their pregnancy, 1.7% in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region and 1.2% statewide.

### Women Who Received No Prenatal Care During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received 2014 from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

## Birth Characteristics

### Why It Is Important

The total number of births in a community is important for service planning and provides an idea of what is happening for families in the region. While the population continues to grow there have been fewer births at the national level since the economic downturn. Changes in income, unemployment rates, and personal savings, have been correlated with both fertility and birth outcomes.<sup>68</sup>

There are many factors surrounding a child's birth that are related to infant and child survival, health, and development. Low birth weight, in particular, is a risk factor for developmental delays, visual and hearing defects, chronic respiratory problems, autism, and learning difficulties.<sup>69</sup> Low birth weights are commonly associated with pre-term births which also increase the risk of serious lasting disabilities like cerebral palsy and increased infant mortality.<sup>70</sup>

### What the Data Tell Us

There were a total of 5,870 births in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2012. This number has decreased from a high of 6,400 in 2009.

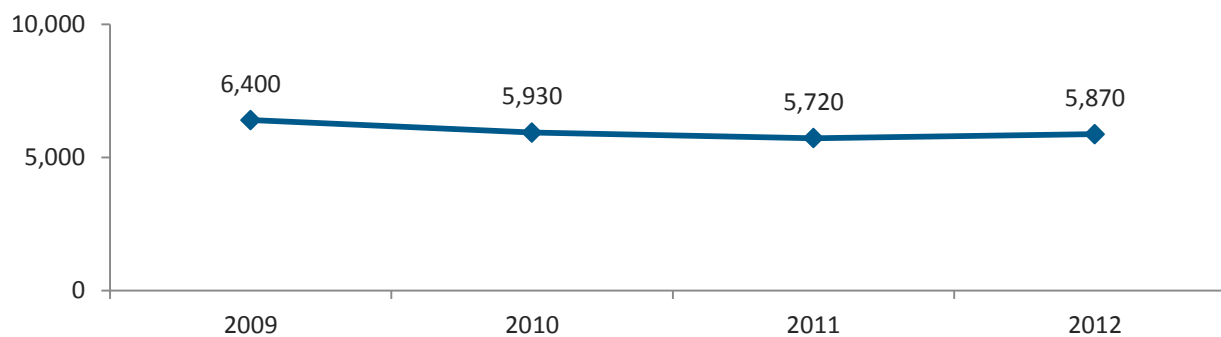
<sup>68</sup> Livingston, G. and the Pew Research Center. (2012). In a down economy, fewer births. Retrieved from <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2011/10/12/in-a-down-economy-fewer-births/>

<sup>69</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services and Administration. (2009, September). *Child health U.S.A. 2008-2009*. Retrieved from <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/chusa08/>

<sup>70</sup> March of Dimes Foundation. (2010). Preterm births. Retrieved from [http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332\\_1157.asp#head4](http://www.marchofdimes.com/professionals/14332_1157.asp#head4)



### Total Births, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

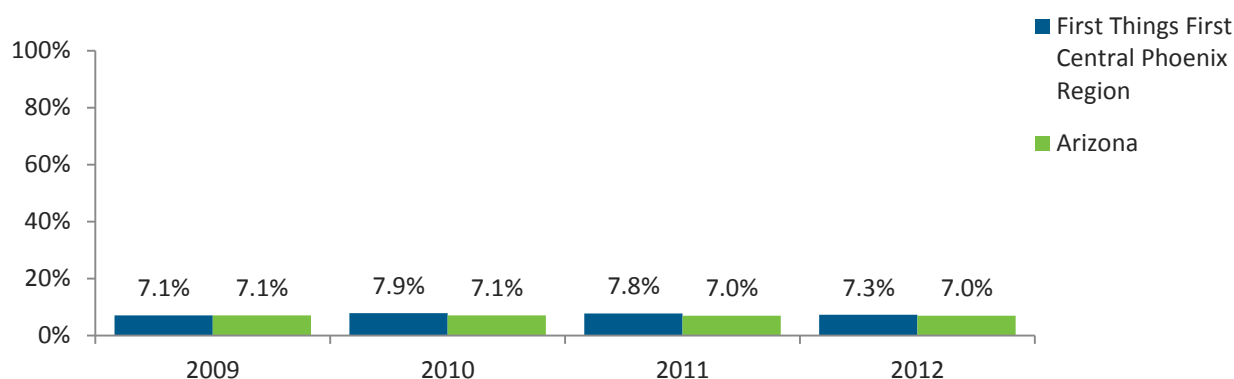


Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). Health status and vital statistics. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

The percentage of births with low birth weight remained fairly consistent since 2009, in both Arizona and in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

### Births with Low Birth Weight (Less than 2,500 Grams)



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). Health status and vital statistics. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



## Substance Abuse During Pregnancy

### Why It Is Important

Tobacco and alcohol use by pregnant women has a number of serious consequences. Infants prenatally exposed to alcohol may develop a range of disorders known as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders such as developmental delays in thinking, speech, movement or social skills, poor coordination, and heart defects.<sup>71</sup> Furthermore, smoking tobacco during pregnancy is the single most preventable cause of illness and death among infants. Babies born to smokers are more likely to be born prematurely, with a low birth weight, and reduced life expectancy.<sup>72</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Nicotine Anonymous*** offers group support to anyone who wants to stop smoking or using products that have nicotine in them. Sunnyside Presbyterian Church is one of the meeting sites.
- ***Southwest Behavioral Health Metro Outpatient Clinic*** offers sliding fee scale drug and alcohol counseling for adults, and counseling for adults and children.
- ***Alcoholics Anonymous Salt River Intergroup*** offers 12-step support groups that help adults get sober and stay sober by sharing their experience, strength and hope.
- ***Black Family and Child Services*** offers behavioral health and substance abuse counseling to those in need of such services. Behavioral health services are available to youth under age 18 and substance abuse services are available to adults ages 18 to 65.
- ***Ebony House Alcohol and Drug Treatment*** offers individualized outpatient services to adults 18 and older seeking to end their physical dependency on drugs or alcohol. Services are available on a sliding scale fee for income eligible participants.
- ***Lifewell Behavioral Wellness*** offers drug and alcohol counseling, living skills instruction, and social support for those dealing with drug and/or alcohol abuse. Other services include, but are not limited to, day programs, residential programs, supportive education, and transportation services.

### What the Data Tell Us

In 2012, less than 1% of mothers reported drinking alcohol during pregnancy in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

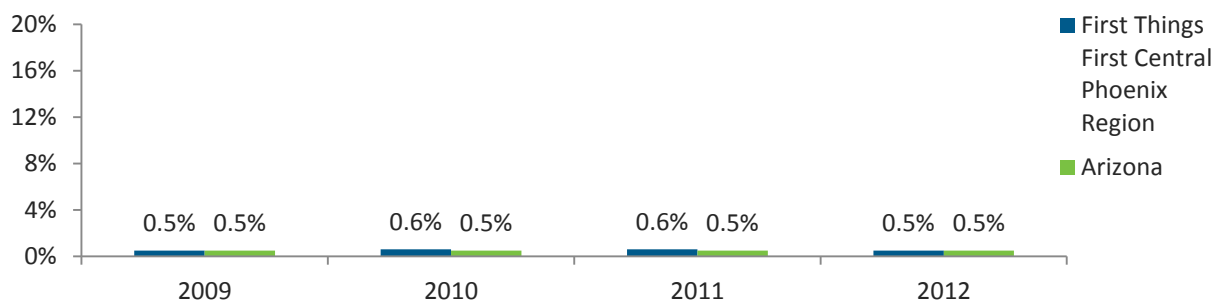
---

<sup>71</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov>

<sup>72</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2007). Tobacco use and pregnancy. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov>



### Births to Mothers Who Drank Alcohol During Pregnancy



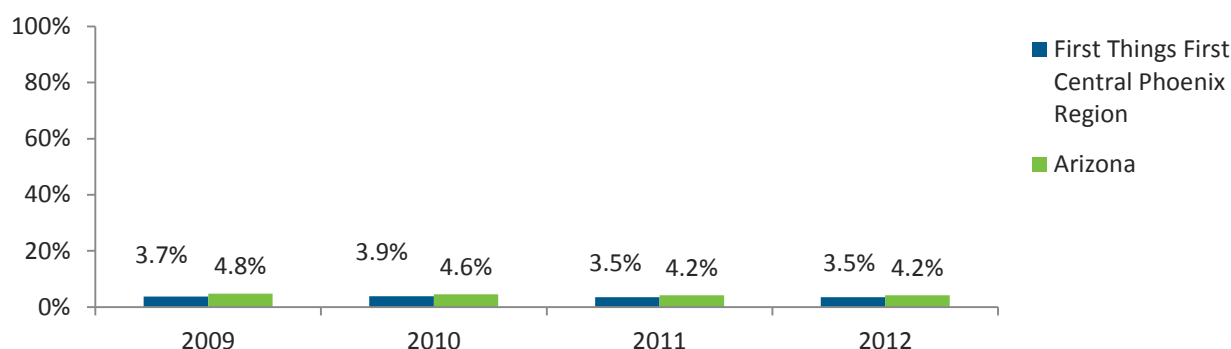
Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Less than 4% of mothers reported using tobacco during pregnancy in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2012. The percentage has remained relatively consistent over time and is comparable to the state overall.

### Births to Mothers Who Used Tobacco During Pregnancy



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



## Teen Births

### Why It Is Important

Teen parents and their children are often at greater risk of experiencing short- and long-term health, economic, social, and academic challenges than parents who delay childbirth. Teen mothers tend to give birth prematurely and have babies born at low birth rates. Teen mothers are less likely to complete high school and therefore have lower earning power in their careers. Children born to teens are 50% more likely to repeat a grade, are less likely to complete high school, and perform lower on standardized tests than children of older mothers.<sup>73</sup> Arizona had the 12<sup>th</sup> highest teen birth rate in the nation in 2012.<sup>74</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- *Child and Family Resources* offers a number of programs for young parents such as support to complete their educations, learning about child development, positive parenting techniques, and finding quality child care.
- *The Teen Parent Support Program* supports young mothers and fathers ages 19 and under in completing their educations, learning positive parenting techniques and finding quality child care.

### What the Data Tell Us

There were 725 births to mothers 19 years or younger in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2012, down from 997 births in 2009.

#### Births to Teen Mothers, First Things First Central Phoenix Region

|                     | 2009         | 2010         | 2011         | 2012         |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Teen Births         | 997          | 827          | 764          | 725          |
| <b>Total Births</b> | <b>6,400</b> | <b>5,930</b> | <b>5,720</b> | <b>5,870</b> |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

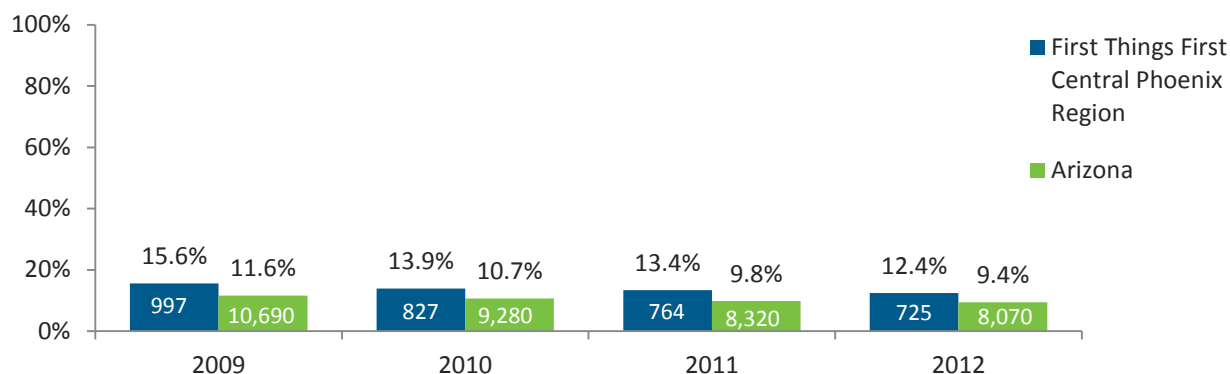
<sup>73</sup> National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. (2002). Not just another single issue: Teen pregnancy prevention's link to other critical social issues. Retrieved from <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/resources/data/pdf/notjust.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. (2014). Birth: Final data for 2012. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_09.pdf#table02](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf#table02)



A five year trend shows a decrease in the percentage of births to teen mothers in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region between 2009 and 2012. However, the region has consistently had a higher percentage of births to teen mothers compared to the state overall. In 2012, 12% of births were to teen mothers in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, while the state percentage was less than 10%.

## Births to Teen Mothers



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Received from Arizona First Things First.

Note: Percentage of total births.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

## Immunizations

### Why It Is Important

Immunizations help prevent a number of serious and sometimes fatal vaccine-preventable diseases in young children. In Arizona, immunizations are a requirement for entry into kindergarten and children must be up-to-date with age-appropriate vaccinations in order to attend preschool or child care. The required vaccinations protect against hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, influenza, and varicella (chickenpox).

A standard measure of vaccinations, as measured by the National Immunization Survey, is the percentage of children ages 19 to 35 months who have received the appropriate number of vaccines across a wide range of diseases; it is referred to as the 4:3:1:3:3:1 immunization schedule.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>75</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). National immunization survey. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis>





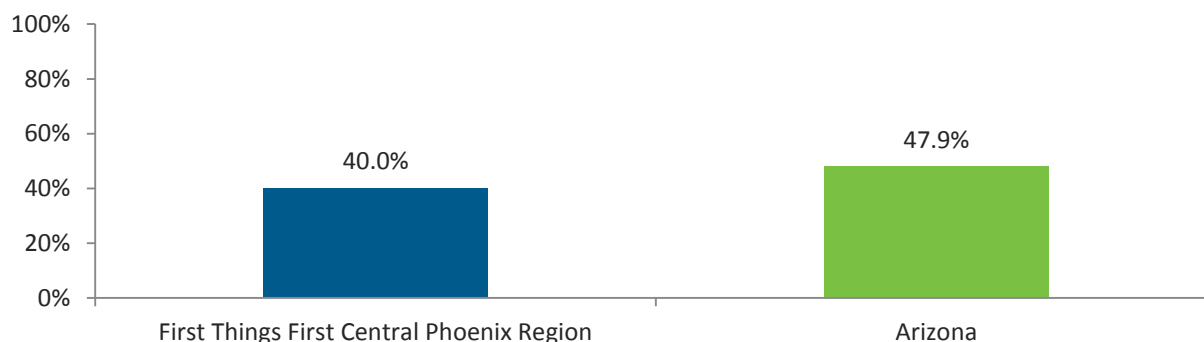
## Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The Arizona Partnership for Immunization (TAPI)*** offers free information and “Ask the Expert” events for parents to ask questions about shots and immunizations.
- ***The Phoenix Fire Department’s Baby Shots Program*** offers free immunizations to children birth through 18 at clinics throughout the city.
- ***Maricopa Department of Public Health*** offers free immunizations to children birth through their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday at their Roosevelt Clinic. The immunizations are provided free of charge and those receiving immunizations are encouraged to bring immunization record books to every visit.
- ***Maricopa County Childhood Immunization Partnership*** publishes immunization information and a list of immunization clinics throughout Phoenix and Maricopa County at [www.mcchip.org](http://www.mcchip.org).

## What the Data Tell Us

The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.<sup>76</sup> Based on data available, 40% of children, ages 19 through 35 months, in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region had completed their vaccination schedule in 2012. This was lower than the state of Arizona overall (48%).

### Children Ages 19 Through 35 Months with Completed 4:3:1:3:3:1 Vaccination Schedule, 2012



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2012). [Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIIS)]. Unpublished data. Received 2014 from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are based on the sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within the region.  
 Note: Children with completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.

<sup>76</sup> Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.



The percentage of children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region who had received each recommended vaccination was slightly lower than the state average. The highest percentage of children had received the MMR vaccination for measles, mumps and rubella, 73%. There was a low percentage of children with the DTap vaccine in the region (48%); the DTap includes a vaccine against pertussis, also known as whooping cough. This is a cause for concern due to the recent national and state epidemic of whooping cough. According to Will Humble, the Arizona Director of Health, there were 988 cases of pertussis in Arizona in 2012, signifying a 300% to 400% increase in the disease. Furthermore, there were 14 infant deaths in the United States from the disease in 2012, according to the Centers for Disease Control.<sup>77</sup> New babies are too young to get the pertussis vaccine, but they can catch the disease from older children or parents who are not immunized or have not received the booster.

### Children Ages 19 Through 35 Month with Required Immunizations by Type, 2012

|                   | CENTRAL PHOENIX<br>REGION | ARIZONA |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| 4+ DTap           | 48.1%                     | 55.3%   |
| 3+ Polio          | 62.5%                     | 70.2%   |
| 1+ MMR            | 73.0%                     | 74.3%   |
| 3+ Hep B          | 65.6%                     | 71.1%   |
| 3+ HIB            | 66.1%                     | 72.8%   |
| 1 Varicella or Hx | 72.2%                     | 73.5%   |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2014). [Arizona State Immunization Information System Data Base (ASIS)]. Unpublished data. Received from First Things First.

Note: First Things First Central Phoenix Region data are based on the sum of Arizona Department of Health Services zip codes within the region.

Note: Children with completed schedule have received all vaccines in the 4:3:1:3:3:1 combination. Data only include children who have been entered into the Arizona State Immunization Information System, and do not capture children who have never seen a doctor or whose doctor did not enter them into the system.

<sup>77</sup> Humble, W. (2014, March 28). Arizona Department of Health Services Director's Blog. Retrieved from <http://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/?tag=whooping-cough>



## Health Care

---

### Health Insurance

#### Why It Is Important

A key measure of access to the health care system is whether a child has health insurance. Children who have health insurance learn better in school and miss fewer days of school.<sup>78</sup> Children who don't have health insurance are four times more likely to have delayed medical care and are more likely to be hospitalized for conditions that could have been treated by a primary care physician.<sup>79</sup> Uninsured children have less access to health care, are less likely to have a regular source of primary care, and use both medical and dental care less often.

#### **"IMPROVING HEALTH COVERAGE FOR KIDS**

has got to be an extremely high priority. Arizona is 49th in the country and in a downward trend. Every health intervention (mental health, well child visits, dental care, etc.) needs coverage. Children cannot have any of these interventions if they can't afford it. If a child is covered, they have a better chance to succeed."

- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance

In 2010, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed and was implemented in 2014. While the effects of ACA are still largely unknown, a recent study published in *Health Affairs* estimated that nationally, 3.2 million children are expected to gain health care coverage, cutting the number of uninsured children in the U.S. by 40%. Rates of the uninsured are expected to decline for children in all income groups, with the steepest decline expected for children in families with incomes between 138% and 250% of poverty. The increase in coverage will come from expansions in Medicaid and CHIP, as well as the new subsidized exchange coverage and the impact of the requirement to secure coverage.<sup>80</sup>

---

<sup>78</sup> Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. (2004). Evaluation of the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative. *Brief Number 4*. Retrieved from <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/CHLImproves.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. (2010). *MediKids fact sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/washing/MediKids-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

<sup>80</sup> Kenney, G.M., Buettgens, M. (2011). Improving coverage for children under health reform will require maintaining current eligibility standards for Medicaid and CHIP. *Health Affairs*. DOI: 10.1377/hltaff.2011.0899



## Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds the ***Children's Action Alliance*** which assists families in applying for or renewing their publicly-funded health insurance.
- ***Maricopa Integrated Health System*** offers children and their families effective case management and connects them to appropriate, coordinated health care. These services improve health care services for children and improve their future development by ensuring they have a regular source of child care.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic*** offer basic health care services to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.

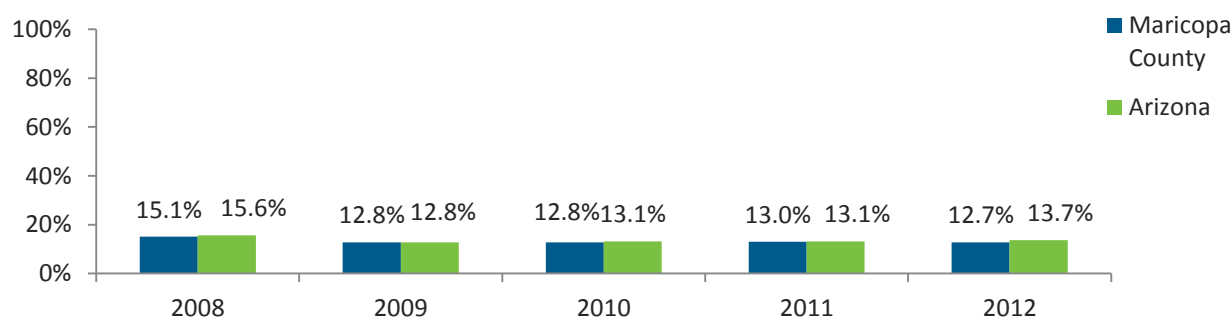
**"RECENTLY WE HAVE NOTICED THAT PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE affordable, easy ways to get covered, or the importance of getting your kids covered, so this education is part of what we focus on during our outreach."**

*- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance*

## What the Data Tell Us

Nearly 13% of children in Maricopa County went without medical insurance in 2012.

### Children Without Health Insurance Coverage (Ages 18 and Younger)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. Retrieved 2014 from <https://www.census.gov/>.

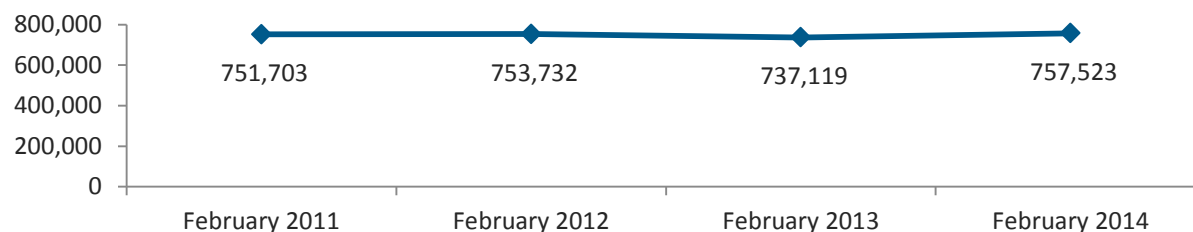
Note: See Appendix for definition of those counted as insured.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



There were a total of 757,523 people enrolled in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System in Maricopa County in February 2014. This was an increase of 20,000 persons from 2013.

### Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. (2014). *Population by county*. Retrieved from <http://www.azahcccs.gov>.

There have been many changes to health coverage in recent years. KidsCare enrollment numbers have dropped drastically in recent years as the KidsCare Office is no longer able to approve any new applications. Enrollment in the KidsCare Program has been frozen since January 1, 2010 due to lack of funding for the program. The KidsCare Office continues to process renewals and changes for eligible children. However families with eligible KidsCare children must complete their renewal and make their premiums on time to avoid losing KidsCare coverage.

In addition to traditional KidsCare, KidsCare II was a new children's coverage program available May 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013, for a limited number of eligible children funded through three hospital systems. KidsCare II has the same benefits and premium requirements as KidsCare.

According to the Federal Authority for KidsCare II, the program expired on January 31, 2014. Originally, the program was set to expire December 31, 2013, but AHCCCS requested a one-month extension. Notices were sent to about 23,000 families with income between 100-133% FPL who transitioned to Medicaid effective January 1, 2014. Notices were also sent to about 14,000 families with income over 133% FPL who will need to apply for coverage under the Federally Facilitated Marketplace where premium subsidies are available for eligible households. Regular KidsCare remains in effect with frozen enrollment. Just over 3,300 children on regular KidsCare were transitioned to Medicaid and about 2,600 children remain enrolled in the KidsCare program.

**"BY LOSING KIDSCARE, OUR STATE CHILD HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM,**  
our families in Arizona lost a huge source of coverage that families  
in every other state have access to."

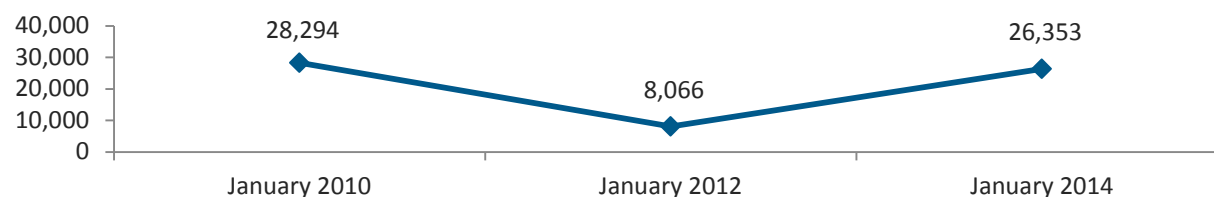
*- Joseph Fu, Director of Health Policy, Children's Action Alliance*

The number of children in Maricopa County enrolled in KidsCare in January 2014 was more than 26,000. This was after a drop in enrollment to roughly 8,000 children in 2012. The KidsCare Office was unable to approve any new applications in the KidsCare Program after January 1, 2010 due to lack of funding for the program. However, the KidsCare Office is processing renewals and



changes for eligible children, which may account for the continued changes in enrollment after the 2010 freeze.

### KidsCare Enrollment, Maricopa County



Source: Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. *KidsCare enrollment*. Retrieved from <http://www.azahcccs.gov>.

## Primary Care

### Why It Is Important

Access to primary care is tied to many financial, physical, and cultural factors, such as employment, health insurance, transportation, language, and education.<sup>81</sup> Children's access to primary health care is especially important to monitor healthy growth and development and to prevent illnesses from progressing into more serious health problems. However, there are not enough doctors or therapists in the state to serve many communities, especially children with special health care or socio-emotional needs. The Arizona Department of Health Services defines Health Professional Shortage Areas and Medically Underserved Areas as having a need for medical services based on demographic data, including the ratio of providers to the population, the number of people living in poverty, uninsured births, low birth weight babies, access to prenatal care, infant mortality rates, and unemployment rates.<sup>82</sup> While the city of Phoenix does not experience the same shortage of health care providers that the rest of the state does, many areas of the city are designated as HPSAs due to the low income of residents.

### What the Data Tell Us

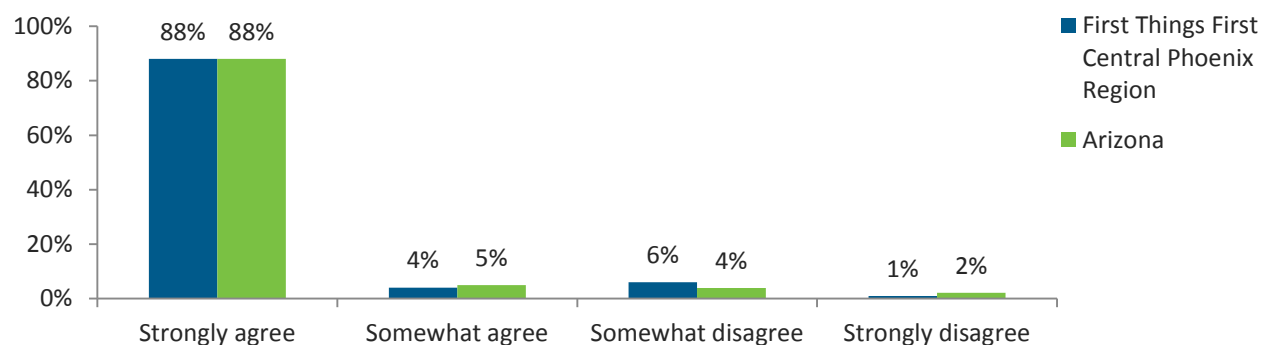
The vast majority of the Family and Community Survey parent and caregiver survey respondents (88%) in the First Things Central Phoenix strongly agreed that their children had regular visits with the same doctor's office, suggesting that most children had a consistent medical home.

<sup>81</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2003). *National healthcare disparities report 2003*. Retrieved from <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhdr03/nhdrsum03.htm#ref6>

<sup>82</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services. Bureau of Health Systems Development and Oral Health. (2010). *Arizona medically underserved areas*. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov/hsd/azmuadesignation.htm>



## Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits at the Same Doctor’s Office,” 2012



n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “I don’t know” or refusing to answer.

Data on Health Service Areas help to assess the number of providers in a given geographical area. The Phoenix Central Health Service Region, while defined differently than the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, provides some insight into number of providers serving families and children in the area. The Phoenix Central Health Service Region is designated a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). The definition of Health Professional(s) Shortage Area: “Health professional(s) shortage area means any of the following which the Secretary determines has a shortage of health professional(s): (1) An urban or rural area (which need not conform to the geographic boundaries of a political subdivision and which a rational area for the delivery of health services); (2) a population group; or (3) a public or nonprofit private medical facility.” This designation is due to the income of residents in the areas near Tolleson and the I-17 corridor, rather than the number of medical professionals serving the area.<sup>83</sup> The Central Phoenix Primary Care Area benefits from having a lower provider to population ratio than both Maricopa County and the state of Arizona overall.

There were 696 people to every one physician served by the Primary Care Area of Phoenix Central, a lower ratio than in Maricopa County (739:1) or Arizona overall (785:1) in 2012. The population to dentist ratio was also lower in Phoenix Central (5,088:1), compared to Maricopa County (5,351:1) and Arizona (5,828:1).

<sup>83</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (n.d.) HPSA designation criteria. Retrieved May 7, 2014 from <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/hpsas/designationcriteria/designationcriteria.html>



### Provider to Population Ratio, 2012

| AREA            | PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER RATIO | DENTIST RATIO |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Phoenix Central | 1:696                       | 1:5,088       |
| Maricopa County | 1:739                       | 1:5,351       |
| Arizona         | 1:785                       | 1:5,828       |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Primary care area, statistical profile*. Retrieved from [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov).

The breakdown of regional providers shows a high number of local registered nurses and emergency medical staff.

### Health Care Providers, 2012

| TYPE OF PROVIDER                        | PHOENIX CENTRAL | MARICOPA COUNTY |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Primary Care Physicians (M.D. and D.O.) | 651             | 5,260           |
| Physician Assistants                    | 203             | 1,323           |
| Nurse Practitioners                     | 168             | 2,099           |
| Registered Nurses                       | 2,690           | 39,913          |
| Dentists                                | 89              | 726             |
| Licensed and Certified Nurse Midwives   | 14              | 116             |
| Emergency Medical                       | 1,133           | 18,653          |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Primary care area, statistical profile*. Retrieved 2014 from [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov).

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

## Oral Health Care

### Why It Is Important

Many pediatricians highlight dental problems as a major health problem. Arizona has substantial disparities in oral health where low income children, Hispanic children, and children of color have more dental needs.<sup>84</sup> Dental diseases can be serious and are linked to premature birth, low birth weight infants, failure to thrive, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and stroke. Dental care is the most common unmet health need in children, and is the cause of impaired speech development, inability to concentrate in school, poor social relationships, and reduced self-

<sup>84</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Oral Health. (2005). The oral health of Arizona's children. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>





esteem.<sup>85</sup> Experts recommend that children as young as one year old be examined for tooth decay.<sup>86</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds oral health screenings and fluoride varnish in a variety of community based settings.
- ***Arizona Department of Health Services*** provides oral health screenings, outreach to dentists, and encourages regular dental visits for children. These services are provided in a variety of community-based settings.
- ***South Central Health Center***, part of Maricopa Integrated Health System, offers sliding scale fee dental services.
- ***Desert Mission Children's Dental Clinic*** provides dental care to children 4 through 20 from families with limited financial resources. The clinic is staffed by volunteer dentists and hygienists, takes AHCCCS, and uses a sliding fee scale for uninsured patients.
- ***The Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Virginia D. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic*** offer basic health care services to low-income working families unable to afford insurance coverage. Doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and other clinic staff volunteer their time to provide these services.
- ***The Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix*** offers a full-service dental facility at its Bob & Renee Parsons Dental Clinic for children who lack dental insurance and do not qualify for state assistance. Services include, but are not limited to, oral exams, fillings, extractions, and emergency surgery.
- ***American Dental Association (ADA)*** offers dental services to children through its Give Kids a Smile Program. This program joins dentists across the country with underserved communities to provide dental services

### What the Data Tell Us

Over two-thirds of parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region strongly agreed that their child age five and under had regular visits with the same dental provider in 2012.

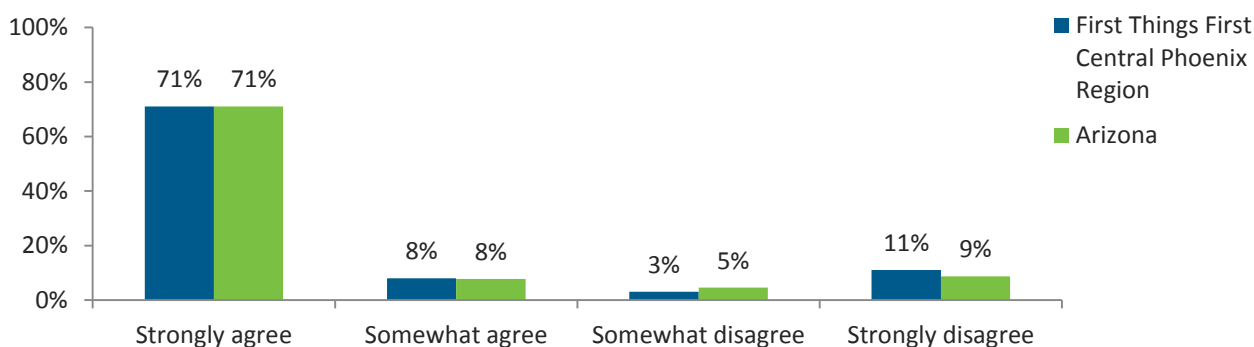
---

<sup>85</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Women and Children's Health, Office of Oral Health. (2011). *The state of American Indian children's oral health in Arizona*. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/ooh/index.htm>

<sup>86</sup> American Association for Pediatric Dentistry. (2004). *Policy on the dental home*. Retrieved from [http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies\\_Guidelines/P\\_DentalHome.pdf](http://www.aapd.org/media/Policies_Guidelines/P_DentalHome.pdf)



### Parent Responses to the Statement “My Child/Children Age Five and Under Have Regular Visits with the Same Dental Provider.” 2012



n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to respondents answering “not sure.”

## Disease and Mortality

### Illness

#### Why It Is Important

Communicable diseases are conditions that can be transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal. Reporting cases of communicable diseases is essential to preventing further spread and protecting the public health of the community. State and federal agencies have certain diseases that are required by law to be reported.

#### What the Data Tell Us

Vaccine preventable diseases increased between 2008 and 2012. This increase was due to the high number of pertussis cases, also known as whooping cough.

### Reported Cases of Notifiable Diseases, All Ages, Maricopa County

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASE      | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Vaccine Preventable     | 23    | 70    | 51    | 121   | 432   |
| Enteritides             | 1,842 | 1,825 | 1,424 | 1,325 | 1,350 |
| Hepatitides (Hepatitis) | 185   | 175   | 132   | 191   | 118   |
| Tuberculosis            | 188   | 247   | 264   | 208   | 198   |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Notes: Vaccine preventable diseases include verified cases of measles, mumps, pertussis, rubella, congenital rubella syndrome, and H. influenzae. Enteritides includes cases of amebiasis, campylobacteriosis, cholera, cryptosporidiosis, E. coli, Salmonellosis, Salmonella, shigellosis, and typhoid fever. Hepatitides includes cases of Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



## Asthma

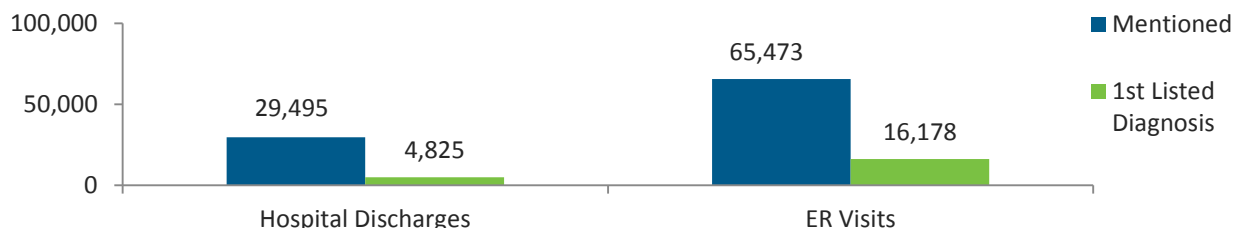
### Why It Is Important

In the United States, nearly 9 million children have asthma. Children have smaller airways than adults, which makes asthma especially serious for them. Many things can cause asthma, including allergens (mold, pollen, animals, and irritants such as, cigarette smoke and air pollution), weather (cold air, changes in weather), exercise, and infections, including the flu and the common cold.<sup>87</sup> Asthma is treated with two kinds of medicines: quick-relief medicines to stop asthma symptoms and long-term control medicines to prevent symptoms.<sup>88</sup> Even severe asthma symptoms can be minimized with appropriate medical care. Well-controlled asthma allows for less symptoms and decreases interference with normal activities, including sleep, work, and school.<sup>89</sup>

### What the Data Tell Us

There were 65,473 emergency room visits where asthma was mentioned in Maricopa County in 2011 and 16,178 cases with asthma listed as the primary diagnosis. There were far more emergency room visits mentioning asthma (29,495) and 4,825 had a primary diagnosis of asthma in that same year.

#### Emergency Room Visits and Hospital Discharges for All Individuals with Asthma, Maricopa County, 2011



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2014). *Emergency room visits and discharges of patients with asthma*, Table 7. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

<sup>87</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health. (2010). *Asthma*. Retrieved from <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/asthmaainchildren.html>.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> The Mayo Clinic. (2010). *Asthma*. Retrieved from <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/asthma-treatment/AS00011/NSECTIONGROUP=2>.

## Obesity and Overweight

### Why It Is Important

Children and adolescents with a BMI between the 85th and 94th percentiles are generally considered overweight, and those with a BMI at or above the gender- and age-specific 95th percentile of the population on this growth chart are typically considered obese. Overweight and obese conditions in children can lead to severe physical and emotional health effects, including a greater risk of hospitalization, type II diabetes, cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, and depression. Furthermore, overweight adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming overweight adults, and this increases to 80% if one or both parents are overweight.<sup>90</sup>

According to the 2007-2008 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), 10% of infants and toddlers in the U.S. were obese, 49% of children and adolescents aged 2 through 19 years were considered overweight or obese, and 60% of adults were obese or overweight.<sup>91 92 93</sup>

Diets rich in fruits and vegetables may help reduce the risk of chronic disease and cancer.<sup>94</sup> In contrast, people who frequently eat fast food often have fewer healthy meal choices and may consume too much sodium and saturated fat and too little fruit, vegetables, and whole grains.

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department*** has a number of neighborhood parks and recreation centers.
  - Park offerings in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region include lighted sports fields, lighted basketball courts, exercise courses, and/or playgrounds; specifics vary by park.
  - Recreation activity centers in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region are facing budgetary cuts. East Lake Community Center and Longview Neighborhood Recreation Center are slated to close July 1, 2014 due to budget cuts. This will affect the centers' summer programs.

<sup>90</sup> Goran, M. (2001). Metabolic precursors and effects of obesity in children: A decade of progress, 1990–1999. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 73(2), 158-171.

<sup>91</sup> Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in U.S. children and adolescents, 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.

<sup>92</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. (2010). Health behaviors of adults: United States, 2005–2007. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(245), 1-143. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr\\_10/sr10\\_245.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_245.pdf)

<sup>93</sup> Ogden, C.L., Carroll, M., Curtin, L., Lamb, M., & Flegal, K. (2010). Prevalence of high body mass index in U.S. children and adolescents, 2007-2008. *Journal of American Medical Association*, 303(3), 242-249.

<sup>94</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2010). *Nutrition and physical activity, 5 a day*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nutrition/>

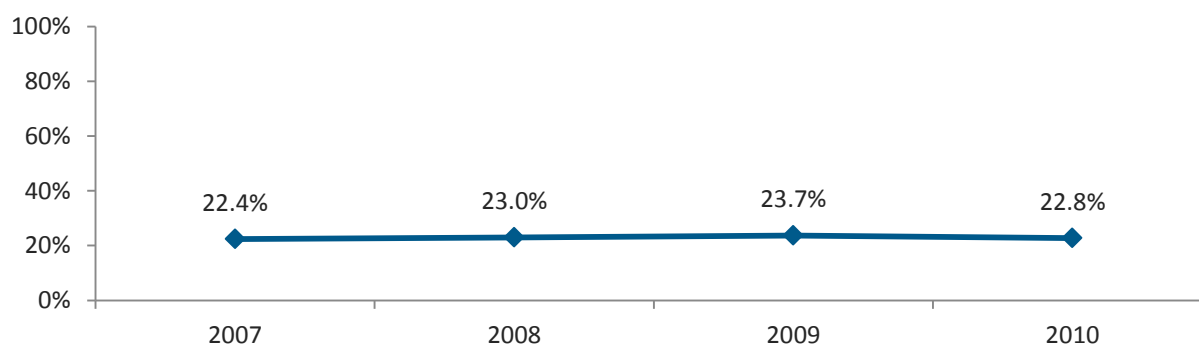


- **Boys and Girls Club** organizations in the Phoenix metro area offer a wide array of services and activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Summer camps and year-round programs offer youth the chance to be engaged in fun activities that stress importance of physical activity.
- **YMCA** clubs in the Phoenix metro area offer a wide array of services and activities designed to promote healthy lifestyles. Summer camps and year-round programs offer youth the chance to be engaged in fun activities that stress physical activity.

### What the Data Tell Us

Data on childhood obesity is not available for the First Things First Central Phoenix Region. However, obesity is an issue for adults in the region. A four year trend shows nearly one in four adults in Maricopa County are obese.

#### Age-Adjusted Estimates of Adults Age 20 and Older Who are Obese, Maricopa County



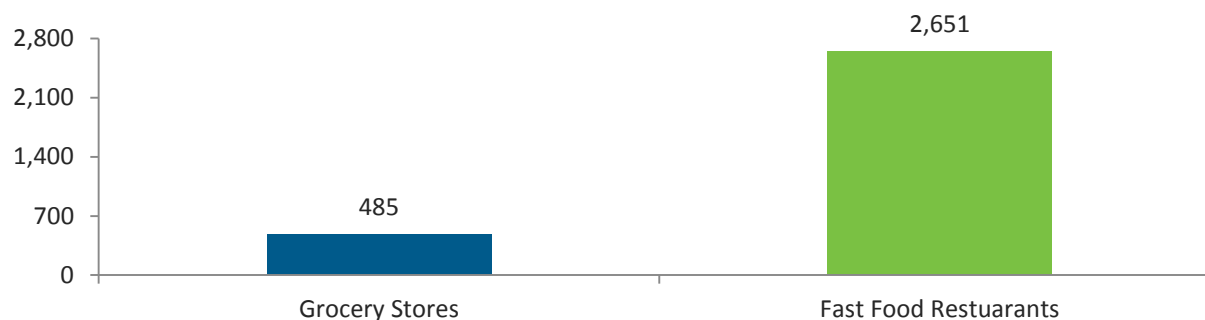
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). *National Diabetes Surveillance System*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Note: Includes adults ages 20 and older.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

In Maricopa County, there were over five times as many fast food restaurants as grocery stores in 2011.

#### Number of Grocery Stores and Fast Food Restaurants, Maricopa County, 2011



Source: Food Environment Atlas. (2012). *Health indicators*. Retrieved from <http://maps.ers.usda.gov>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.



## Diabetes

### Why It Is Important

While type II diabetes is primarily associated with overweight adults over age 40, inactivity and increased obesity rates have led to greater incidence in children. Children with type II diabetes are at greater risk for the long-term complications of diabetes, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease. Early diagnosis and treatment of type II diabetes can prevent or delay the onset of diabetes complications. The cornerstones of diabetes management for children with type II diabetes are weight management and increased physical activity.<sup>95</sup>

### Snapshot of Community Assets

- ***Centro de Salud Wesley Community Center*** offers diabetes management education and services.
- ***The Sunnyslope Family Health Center*** offers individual instruction to community members with diabetes. Topics include healthy eating, exercise, prevention of long-term problems, stress management, and blood sugar checks.
- ***Mission of Mercy's*** free mobile health care services include diabetes management and education to assist patients with diabetes to gain better control of their blood sugar levels and prevent complications.
- ***Native Health*** offers diabetes management services, including blood sugar control assistance, glucose machine education, insulin management, and diabetic nutrition. Free transportation to appointments is available in Maricopa County.
- ***Interfaith Cooperative Ministries/Cathedral Health Services'*** medical clinics for uninsured community members include diabetes tests in their range of services.
- ***Adelante Healthcare*** provides sliding scale fee diabetes screenings.

### What the Data Tell Us

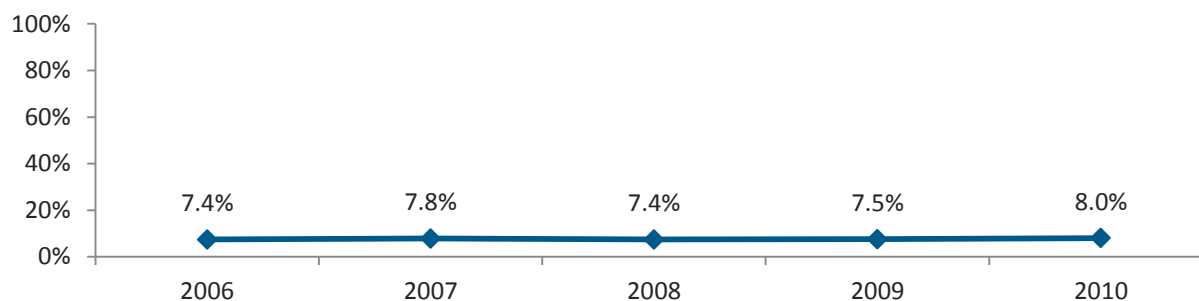
Eight percent of adults in Maricopa County were estimated to have diabetes in 2010, similar to the previous five years.

---

<sup>95</sup> National Diabetes Education Program. (2008). *Overview of diabetes in children and adolescents*. Retrieved from [www.yourdiabetesinfo.org](http://www.yourdiabetesinfo.org)



## Age-Adjusted Estimates of Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes, Maricopa County



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). National Diabetes Surveillance System. Retrieved 2014 from <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Note: Includes adults age 20 and older.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

## Leading Causes of Death

### Why It Is Important

A report was released by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration looked at 70 years of infant mortality data in the United States in comparison to 37 other countries. The infant mortality rate in the United States showed a consistently downward trend over those 70 years from 55.7 per 1,000 live births in 1935 to 6.8 in 2007. However, the U.S. ranked very low when compared to other countries, 31 out of 37 in 2006.<sup>96</sup> Further, there are large disparities in infant mortality based on race and ethnicity in the U.S. According to the 2006 linked birth/infant death data, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was highest for non-Hispanic blacks (13.4), followed by American Indians/Alaska Natives (8.3), non-Hispanic whites (5.6), Mexicans (5.3), and Asian/Pacific Islanders (4.6). The leading causes of death are birth defects, premature birth, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and complications with the mother.

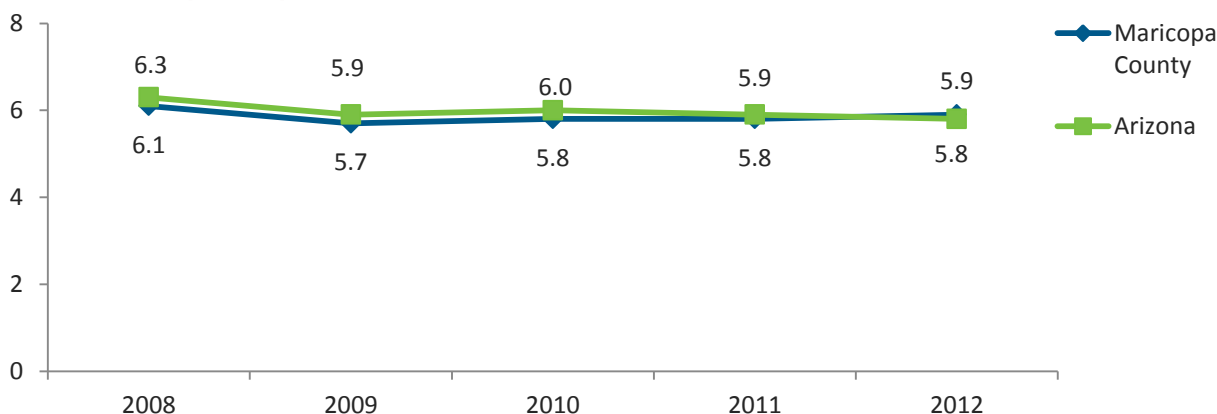
### What the Data Tell Us

Infant mortality in Maricopa County decreased from 6.1 per 1,000 live births in 2008 to 5.9 deaths in 2012. The infant mortality rate in Maricopa County has remained similar to that of the state of Arizona as a whole.

<sup>96</sup> Singh, G.K. and van Dyck, P.C. (2010). Infant mortality in the United States, 1935-2007: Over seven decades of progress and disparities. *Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau*. Retrieved from [http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/images/mchb\\_infantmortality\\_pub.pdf](http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/images/mchb_infantmortality_pub.pdf)



### Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births



Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2013). *Health status and vital statistics*. Retrieved from <http://www.azdhs.gov>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: Under-five mortality rates and infant mortality rates are not actually rates but a probability of death expressed as rate per 1,000 live births.<sup>97</sup>

Total deaths over the past 5 years have been decreasing for children under 18 in Maricopa County. The most frequent cause of death for children under 18 years old was medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS) with 188 deaths in Maricopa County in 2011. Deaths due to prematurity dropped from 158 in 2009 to 129 in 2011.

### Cause of Death for Children Under 18 Years, Maricopa County

| CAUSE OF DEATH                           | 2007       | 2008       | 2009       | 2010       | 2011       |
|------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Medical (excluding prematurity and SIDS) | 252        | 226        | 196        | 195        | 188        |
| Prematurity                              | 187        | 159        | 158        | 118        | 129        |
| Motor Vehicle Crash                      | 43         | 30         | 43         | 32         | 19         |
| Undetermined                             | 25         | 52         | 50         | 44         | 32         |
| Other                                    | 141        | 110        | 95         | 97         | 110        |
| <b>Total Maricopa County</b>             | <b>648</b> | <b>577</b> | <b>542</b> | <b>486</b> | <b>478</b> |

Source: Arizona Department of Health Services. (2011). Child Fatality Review Report, Maricopa County. Retrieved 2014 from <http://www.azdhs.gov/>.

Note: Data presented are the most recent available.

Note: Data on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) are suppressed due to the number of deaths being less than 20.

<sup>97</sup> World Health Organization. (2010). Probability of dying aged < 5 years per 1,000 live births (under-five mortality rate). Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/whosis/indicators/2007MortChild/en/>





# PUBLIC AWARENESS AND COLLABORATION

Every parent can benefit from networking with other parents and hearing from experts. In order for parents and children to access the services and supports they need, they must know that they exist and where to find them. Raising awareness about the local network of supports and services for parents is essential.

## SELECTED INDICATORS

- Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services



## Parent Perceptions of Early Childhood Services

### Why It Is Important

It is important to know the perceptions of parents about early childhood services in the region so that First Things First can work with partner agencies to improve services and supports to parents.

**“THERE IS SO LITTLE IN TERMS OF FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION,** and places for families to get help if they are unemployed, or facing foreclosure, or needing childcare. First Things First has worked very well to put a number of resources for families with young children in place, and those are primarily early childhood focused services where our opportunity for improving outcomes is greatest.”

*- Becky Ruffner, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Arizona*

### Snapshot of Community Assets

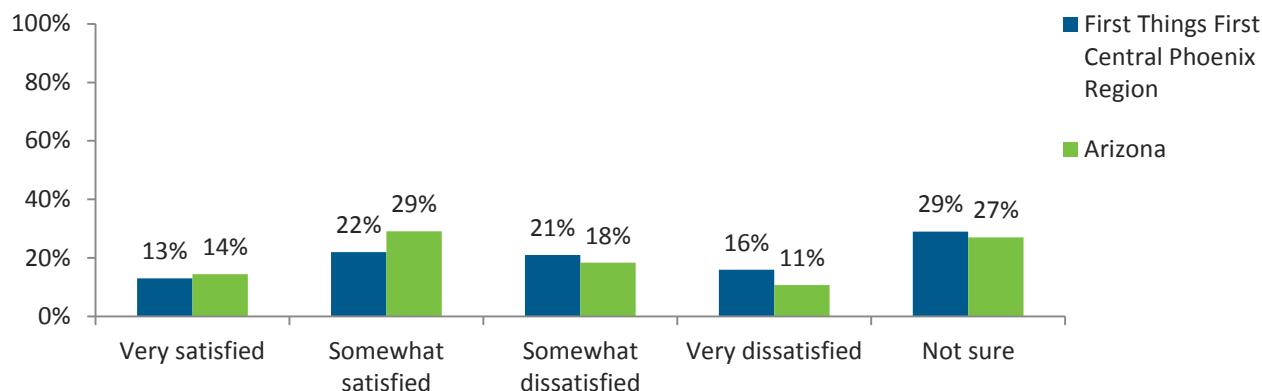
- ***The First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Partnership Council:***
  - Funds media-based public awareness campaigns, community outreach, and other strategies to increase community awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health.
  - Funds statewide evaluation efforts which includes studies and evaluation work which inform the Board and Regional Partnership councils.
  - Funds coordination and improvement efforts to streamline processes including applications, service qualifications, service delivery, and follow up for families with young children.

### What the Data Tell Us

Thirteen percent of parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported they were very satisfied with the way care providers and government agencies work together and communicate with each other in 2012.



## Parent Responses to the Question “How Satisfied Are You with How Care Providers and Government Agencies Work Together and Communicate with Each Other?” 2012



n=202

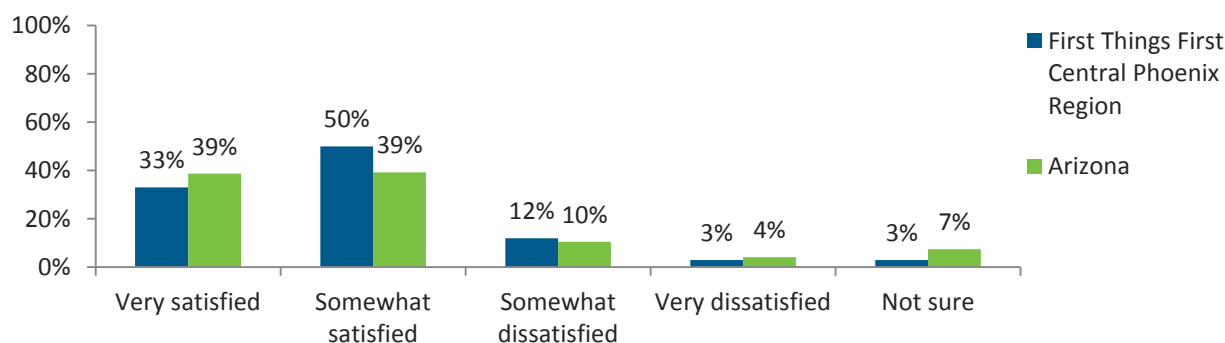
Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.

A third of parents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported they were very satisfied with community information and resources available to parents about children’s development and health in 2012. Fifteen percent of respondents were somewhat or very dissatisfied with information and resources.

**“I REALLY SEE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FIRST THINGS FIRST TO BE PART**  
of the outside change agent that helps with early child development.  
First Things First is elevating the conversation of why early childhood education is  
something that we should all be paying attention to.”

- Jayson Matthews, Chief Development Officer, United Food Bank

## Parent Responses to the Question “How Satisfied Are You with the Community Information and Resources Available to You About Children’s Development and Health?” 2012



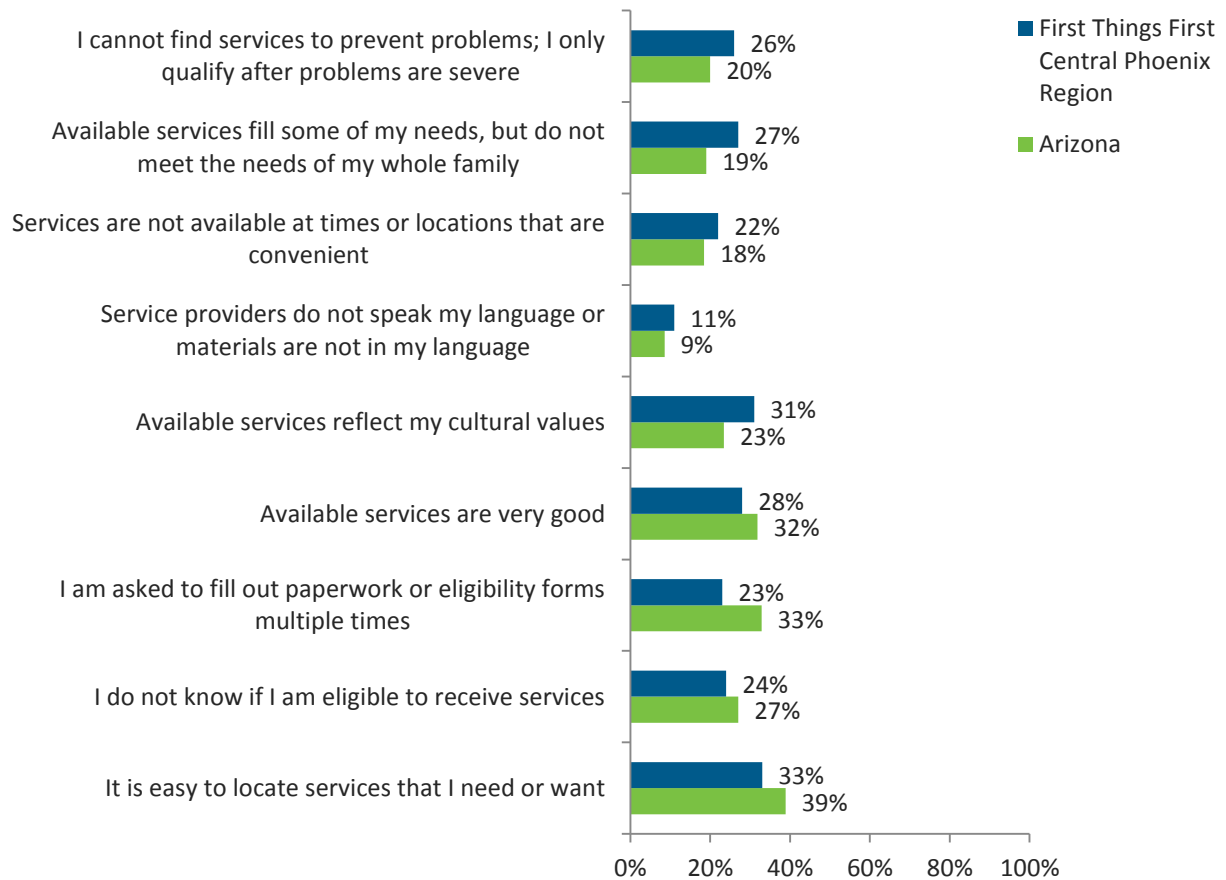
n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.



In 2012, 26% of respondents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported they strongly agreed that they could not find services to prevent problems and those services were only available after problems were severe. However, 33% reported they strongly agreed with the statement that services they needed or wanted were easy to locate.

### Reasons for Parent Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction with Early Childhood Services (Respondents Reported “Strongly Agree”) 2012



n=202

Source: First Things First. (2012). [Family and Community Survey]. Unpublished data. Phoenix, AZ.



# CONCLUSION



## Conclusion

---

### Addressing Child Wellbeing

In 2013, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) released a report ranking childhood wellbeing in the world's richest countries. UNICEF measured children's wellbeing by looking at poverty, unmet basic needs, housing, infant mortality rates, health, immunizations, early child education, educational attainment and achievement, nutrition and exercise, teen births, and exposure to violence; many of the same indicators presented in this report. The United States ranked 26<sup>th</sup> out of 29 comparable countries. As in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, indicators affecting the overall wellbeing of children included low immunization rates, low preschool participation, educational attainment, and high rates of overall obesity and poor health. The report noted that while many indicators of child wellbeing have increased worldwide over the past decade, childhood outcomes are highly susceptible to public policy and funding. Countries, and by extension, communities investing in healthy development of children through support programs and early education can improve outcomes for children and adults.<sup>98</sup>

The 2014 First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report looks at the indicators of child wellbeing in the regional context. The First Things First Central Phoenix Region benefits from having many local service providers and the infrastructure of an urban area. However, the pressures of living in a city and the cost of living also create challenges for families in the region. Of greatest concern is the overall number of children living in poverty, as poverty affects every other aspect of child's wellbeing. Many of the state and national programs designed to assist families and children living in poverty have been affected by budgetary cuts, resulting in fewer families receiving needed assistance. Many community programs have stepped in to fill the gap in services and as the economy recovers from the economic crisis, some indicators such as unemployment levels and foreclosures are improving. Yet, families and children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region continue to face challenges.

### Families and Children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region

The City of Phoenix, located in Maricopa County, covers more than 517 square miles and has a population of roughly 1.5 million, ranking it the sixth largest city in the country and the largest capital city in terms of population. The First Things First Board established three regions in the city of Phoenix: North, Central, and South.

---

<sup>98</sup> UNICEF, Office of Research. (2013). *Child well-being in rich countries: A comparative overview*. Retrieved from [http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc11\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc11_eng.pdf)





The population of the First Things First Central Phoenix region was roughly 340,000 in 2010 with approximately 34,000 children birth through 5. Twenty-eight percent of families in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region in 2010 were female headed households, and 58% were married couples. Sixty eight percent of children birth through 5 were identified as Hispanic or Latino, 18% White, 7% Black/African American, and 3% American Indian. More than half (57%) of the population ages five and over spoke only English in the home.

## **Housing and Employment**

Data suggest families and children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region are experiencing some benefits of the economic recovery. The unemployment in Phoenix City was roughly 7% in 2013, a decrease from 11% in 2010. The foreclosure rates have also decreased. In 2012, nearly 1 in 300 homes were entering foreclosure in the state. In February 2014, foreclosures ranged from 1 in 2,800 in the 85018 zip code to 1 in 612 in 85019. About half of residents in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region reported spending more than 30% on housing costs, according to 2007-2011 estimates. The high costs of housing places pressure on families and forces them to make difficult decisions about rent, food, utilities, health care, and child care costs. Research has shown that being behind on rent or mortgage correlates strongly with negative health outcomes for both mothers and children. Children in families that have been behind on rent within the last year are more likely to be in poor health and have an increased risk of developmental delays than children whose families are stably housed.<sup>72</sup> While affordable housing is needed in the region, providing struggling families with basic assistance and support for other household needs may alleviate the strain of high housing costs.

## **Poverty and Insufficient Incomes**

The median family income for the region ranged greatly with two parent households in the area served by the Madison Elementary School District making \$98,000, to single mothers making less than \$10,000 in the Phoenix Elementary School District area. It should be noted that the median household income of single female-led households in all school district areas of the Central Phoenix Region were far below what the Self-Sufficiency Standard determined is a livable income.

More than half of children birth through 5 in families in the areas served by Alhambra, Balsz, Osborn, Phoenix and Wilson Elementary Districts were living in poverty. While extreme poverty most often affects families with young children, it also impacts older children in the region.

## **Limited English Speaking Households**

Many children ages 5 to 17 years old live in limited English speaking households. Twenty-one percent of children in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region were living in limited English speaking household. The limited English skills of adults in a household may present challenges to children's success as it can decrease access to medical and social services.



## Quality Child Care Services

Roughly half of children with parents in the work force in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region do not have formal child care slots available to them. While this statistic is startling, the percentage of children with access was higher than in many other areas of the state. Considering the need for additional quality child care, the First Things First Central Phoenix Region has taken steps to increase child care capacity and help parents to access quality early learning opportunities for their children. There are a number of programs offering educational opportunities for individuals interested in early child education as well as support programs for those providing informal care. Yet, there continues to be a need for child care subsidies and support programs in order for struggling families to meet their child care needs and provide young children with quality early education.

## Births and Infant Health Care

While most mothers are receiving some form of prenatal care, 19% of women did not receive prenatal care in their first trimester of pregnancy, indicating an opportunity for further outreach and education. While the number of births to teen mothers are decreasing at the regional and state level, the First Things First Central Phoenix Region has a higher percentage of births to teen mothers (12%) than the state of Arizona overall (9%). This 12% represents 725 children born to teen mothers who need additional support and services. While there are a number of local organizations providing support to young families, additional outreach and education is needed to ensure that the downward trend in teen birth continues.

The percentage of mothers using tobacco and drinking alcohol during pregnancy has remained relatively consistent and is slightly higher than the state average. The data would suggest, therefore, a need to focus on increased education and prenatal support programs.

## Vaccinations

The data regarding immunizations are likely an undercount and should be reviewed with caution.<sup>99</sup> Based on data available, 60% of children age 19 through 35 months old had not completed their recommended vaccinations in 2012. Less than half (48%) had completed pertussis vaccinations during the statewide whooping cough outbreak. While death from whooping cough is not as common in older children and adults, infants who are too young to be vaccinated are at risk. Ensuring those who can be vaccinated are helps to ensure the disease does not spread to infants. There were 432 cases of Pertussis in Maricopa County in 2012, a marked increase from previous years. In light of the increase in vaccine preventable illnesses in

---

<sup>99</sup> Immunization data are from the Arizona State Immunization Information System (ASIIS). ASIIS-based coverage level estimates are nearly always lower than actual coverage levels given the challenges in determining a completion rate. Fragmented records, children relocating out of state before completing their immunization, and duplication of records are some reasons for these challenges.





the state and the region, increased education and immunization opportunities are needed for children and families in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region.

## Juvenile Crime

Juvenile crime is one of the most salient indicators of community safety, as it is associated with histories of abuse or neglect, substance abuse, mental health problems, family disorganization, peer pressure, and gang activity.<sup>77</sup> The good news is that arrests of youth ages 8 through 17 have decreased a lot over the past five years. In 2007, roughly 25,000 youth were arrested, compared to roughly 20,000 in 2011, a decrease of about 5,000. While the arrests of children ages 8-17 may seem far removed from the lives of children birth through 5, a recent study showed that children who participated in preschool intervention for 1 or 2 years had a higher rate of high school completion, more years of completed education, and lower rates of juvenile arrests, violent arrests, and school dropout than those without.<sup>78</sup>

## In Summary

This Needs and Assets report on the health and wellbeing of children birth through 5 in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region has identified the areas where children are doing well and areas that need additional investment. While some data trends show improvement for children and families, families are still facing many challenges. The number of children in households living in poverty is alarming. Insufficient income has both short and long term consequences for children, affecting everything from housing and nutrition to health and educational attainment. Yet, there are many community members and programs dedicated to improving the lives of children in the region. First Things First is committed to working with the communities in the Central Phoenix area to address these issues and ensure that all children have the opportunity for a bright and healthy future.



# APPENDICES



# APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

## SECONDARY DATA

Secondary (pre-existing) data were collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey; the U.S. Census Bureau Census 2000 and 2010; the Arizona Department of Health Services; the Arizona Department of Economic Security; the Arizona Department of Education; and other local, state, and federal agencies. Additional data were provided by First Things First for inclusion in the Needs and Assets Report.

Most data were collected for the First Things First Central Phoenix Region or Maricopa County when regional data were not available. While all efforts were made to identify data for the population birth through 5 in the First Things First Central Phoenix Region, data were not always available at this level. In these cases, data were collected for other age ranges (such as ages birth through 4 or under 18 years). Data were also collected for multiple years when available to present trends. Data in the report reflect the most recent data available.

Data in the report underwent extensive proofing to ensure accuracy. The data proofing protocol is a nine-step process that thoroughly checks text, numbers, and formatting in narrative, tables, charts, and graphs no fewer than three times.

### Regional Population and Poverty Estimates

---

Arizona First Things First provided regional population and poverty estimates for each of the First Things First Regional Councils. These data are based on 2010 Census data. First Things First developed these regional estimates based upon individual census tracts, aligning census tracts to regional zip codes.

### Census and American Community Survey Data

---

The 2014 First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Needs and Assets Report uses U.S. Census data as the primary source of data on population and basic demographics. These data are prioritized due to the small margin of error. The sampling error associated with the decennial census is much lower (in general) than that of the American Community Survey (ACS). The actual number of households from which the Bureau gets completed ACS is about 1 in 11 over any 5-year period (or about 1 in 55 for any single year). However, the U.S. Census no longer uses the “long form” and therefore data on indicators such as family type and grandparent led households are only available through ACS.



Census and ACS data are often presented at the regional level. These data are calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau's ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs). U.S. Census data are available by ZCTA for both Census 2000 and 2010. In 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began to provide all ACS data by ZCTA. The ZCTAs used in this report correspond to the First Things First Central Phoenix Region ZIP codes.

Census and ACS data are also presented by School District Boundaries. Data by school district areas include all people living within the geographic region, not only those children and families enrolled in the district. The U.S. Census Bureau's Geography Division updates school district boundaries every other year as part of the School District Review Program. This initiative provides boundaries for the production of school district demographic estimates. School districts are identified as Elementary (primarily serving children in the elementary grades), Secondary (primarily serving children in secondary grades 9th-12th), and Unified (serving children of all grade levels). The School District Boundaries used in this report correspond to the First Things First Central Phoenix Region school districts.

This report uses Census 2000 and 2010 and ACS 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates in an effort to align with the data provided by the First Things First state evaluation team. New 2008-2012 5-Year Estimates are available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

## Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

---

Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) definition of those insured:

The definition for those uninsured is the same as the definition by the American Community Survey (ACS). ACS asks if the person is currently "covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans:

- Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
- Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities (Note: SAHIE does not report insurance rates for people over 65 since over 98% of people over the age of 65 are insured)
- Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low incomes or a disability
- TRICARE or other military health care
- Indian Health Services (however, people whose only health coverage is Indian Health Service are uninsured as IHS is not considered comprehensive coverage).
- VA (including those who have ever used or enrolled for VA health care)
- Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan (user specified)



## Food Insecurity Estimates

---

Current Population Survey (CPS) data supplemented with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) were used to assess the relationship between food insecurity and its determinants at the state level. In particular, the following indicators were used: unemployment rate, poverty rate, median income, homeownership rates, percent African American and percent Hispanic or Latino. These variables were selected because they are publicly available at both the county and state level and are associated with food insecurity. In addition, the model controls for state-specific and year-specific factors. County-level estimates were derived from the state-level relationships that exist between these indicators and food insecurity. Estimates were sorted by income categories associated with eligibility for federal nutrition programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), using American Community Survey (ACS) data on population and income at the county level.

The food-insecurity model illuminates the effect that the unemployment rate, the poverty rate and other factors (e.g., median income) have on food insecurity. As expected, all else equal, higher unemployment and poverty rates are associated with higher rates of food insecurity. A one percentage point increase in the unemployment rate leads to a 0.51 percentage point increase in the overall food-insecurity rate, while a one percentage point increase in poverty leads to a 0.19 increase in food insecurity. Although the effect of a one percentage point increase in unemployment is larger than a one percentage point increase in poverty as described above, the mean value of poverty is higher than unemployment. To control for this they evaluate what occurs when unemployment and poverty are both at their mean values and consequently find that the relative effect of unemployment is higher than poverty for the full population.

### Child Food Insecurity Estimates

Recognizing that children are particularly vulnerable to the economic challenges facing families today, Feeding America has replicated the food-insecurity model used for the general population to reflect the need among children.

Similar to the methodology used to derive food-insecurity estimates for the overall population, CPS data were used to assess the relationship between the proportion of children in any state living in food-insecure households and key indicators of food insecurity. The following indicators were used to calculate estimates of child food insecurity at the county, congressional district, and state levels: unemployment rates, child-poverty rates, median income for families with children, homeownership rates for families with children, percent African American children and percent Hispanic or Latino children.

As with the overall food-insecurity estimates, these variables were selected because they are associated with food insecurity and are publicly available at the county, congressional district, and state levels through the CPS, BLS and ACS. Estimates were also developed to sort the child food-insecurity estimates into categories based on household income; for the child food insecurity portion of this study, the categories are based on eligibility for child nutrition programs (above and below 185 percent of the poverty line) such as the National School Lunch Program



(NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

## First Things First Family and Community Survey

First Things First Family and Community Survey data is collected every two - three years. The Family and Community Survey is designed to measure many critical areas of parent knowledge, skills, and behaviors related to their young children. The survey contains over sixty questions, some of which were drawn from the national survey, What Grown-Ups Understand about Child Development. Survey items explore multiple facets of parenting. There are questions on overall knowledge of the importance of early childhood, questions which gauge parent knowledge of specific ages and stages, parent behaviors with their children, as well as parent practices related to utilization of services for their families.

Statewide a total of 5,209 adults (ages 18 and older) responded to the 2012 survey with 3,708 of the respondents indicating they had one or more children under six living in their household. For the purposes of the Regional Needs and Assets reports, the sub-sample of 3,708 parents and caregivers with children under six (FTFs target population) was included for the analyses presented in this report. In Central Phoenix, a total of 202 surveys were conducted with parents and caregivers of children under six.

The sample data were weighted so that the sample would match the population of the state on four characteristics: family income, educational attainment, sex, and race-ethnicity. Data was weighted at both the statewide level to arrive at the Arizona results and at the regional level to arrive at the Regional results. Please note that regional estimates are necessarily less precise than the state estimates; i.e. small differences observed might easily be due to sampling variability.

## First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Breakdowns

### First Things First Central Phoenix Regional Zip Codes

| CENTRAL PHOENIX REGION |       |       |
|------------------------|-------|-------|
| 85003                  | 85012 | 85017 |
| 85004                  | 85013 | 85018 |
| 85006                  | 85014 | 85019 |
| 85007                  | 85015 | 85034 |
| 85008                  | 85016 |       |

### First Things First Central Phoenix Region School Districts

- Alhambra Elementary School District – <http://www.alhambraesd.org>
- Balsz School District – <http://www.balsz.k12.az.us>
- Creighton School District – <http://www.creightonschools.org/>





- Madison Elementary School District – <http://www.madisonaz.org/>
- Osborn School District – <http://www.osbornnet.org/>
- Phoenix Elementary School District – <http://www.phxelem.k12.az.us/>
- Wilson School District - <http://www.wsd.k12.az.us/>

## Secondary Data Analysis

---

### Child Care Programs and Capacity

Child care programs and capacity data were determined using Department of Economic Security (DES) data provided to us by First Things First and then cross-referenced with data pulled from the DES website. Child care programs were categorized by those that were licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), certified by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (AZDES), and registered with Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). ADHS licensed programs include child care centers, child care public schools, and child care small group homes; AZDES certified programs include child care homes; and CCR&R programs include unregulated child care homes. Quality First Program data were received from First Things First.

### Child Care Need and Availability

Child care need and availability was displayed by presenting the estimated percent of children birth to 11 with parents in the labor force with child care available to them. The numerator in this equation was established by using child care program and capacity data collected through the Department of Economic Security (DES) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to establish an unduplicated estimate of the number of child care slots in the region. The denominator in this equation was the estimate of the number of children with parents in the labor force. This is calculated by using the five year estimate of the American Community Survey (ACS), Table B23008, to establish the percentage of parents in the workforce with children ages 0-17 and multiplying that by the population age 0-11 (ACS Table B09001). Parents in the workforce are defined as married households where both parents work and single parent households where one parent works.

